

Introduction: Green scale was found for the first time in the environment in California in September 2022, detected on mandarin trees in Bell Gardens, Los Angeles County.

Distribution: Native to Africa, now introduced widely across tropical and subtropical areas of the World. In the USA it is also recorded from Florida and Hawaii.

Description: Adult females can be recognized from other soft scales in California by their pale green color and slightly transparent body, usually with an internal irregular U-shaped pattern of black spots along the gut, lacking any wax or ovic sac, and microscopically by the presence of fimbriate marginal setae, clavate dorsal setae, and multilocular pores normally with 7 loculi.

Biology: Reproduction is usually parthenogenetic, and each female can lay about 500 eggs under her body which hatch within a few hours. The crawlers remain under their mother for several days, and then disperse to settle in leaf undersides, fruits, and shoots. Females have three nymphal instars, and the entire life cycle lasts from one to several months. In Florida there is one generation per year lasting 50 to 70 days; in tropical countries multiple generations per year can occur.

Hosts and economic importance: This scale feeds on plants of over 150 genera in 60 families, including citrus and avocado, and it is considered a serious pest in some tropical countries. It feeds on phloem sap and eliminates large amounts of honeydew that cover the plant surfaces, blocking light and air from the leaves and impending photosynthesis, reducing the vigor of the tree and disfiguring fruit.

References:

Gill, R.J., S. Nakahara & M.L. Williams.1977. A review of the genus *Coccus* Linnaeus in America north of Panama (Homoptera: Coccoidea: Coccidae). Occasional Papers in Entomology, State of California, Department of Food and Agriculture 24:1–44.

Kondo, T., G.W. Watson & I.A. Gavrilov-Zimin. 2022. *Coccus* spp., pp. 248–257. In: T. Kondo & G.W. Watson (Eds.), Encyclopedia of Scale Insect Pests. CABI, Wallingford, U.K., xxvi + 608 pp.



Adult females on a mandarin tree in Los Angeles Co. (G. Arakelian)

