OLEANDER SCALE (Phenacaspis cockerelli (Cooley))
(Homoptera: Coccidae)
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INTRODUCTION: Oleander scale, an armored scale, was first found in Florida at Meade Gardens, Winter Park, Orange County, by J. R. Springer on sweetbay (Magnolia virginiana L.) in 1942. This scale formerly was referred to as magnolia white scale (Phenacaspis natalensis Ckll.). In 1953 G. B. Merrill reported the distribution in Florida as Orange and Leon Counties and the known hosts as: banana shrub (Michelia fuscata (Andr.) Blume), bird-of-paradise (Strelitzia spp.), oleander (Nerium oleander L.), a palmetto (Sabal mexicana Mart.), and sweetbay (Magnolia virginiana L.).

DESCRIPTION: The female armor is pear shaped, shiny white, and 2-3 mm in length. The exuviae is terminal and yellowish brown (Figs. 1, 2, & 3). The male armor is elongate, snow-white, feebly tricarinate, and about 1 mm in length. The male exuviae is terminal with a faint yellowish tinge. The males usually occur in clusters on the leaf.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Oleander scale has become an economic pest to ornamental nurseries in Florida. The rapid distribution throughout Florida can be attributed to the movement of infested nursery stock. The known hosts in Florida today include many of the major ornamental plants found in commercial nurseries.

CONTROL: Dimethoate (Cygon) 25% EC at 1/4 pint to 12 1/2 gallons of water, or Ethion 40% EC at 1/8 pint plus 1/2 pint oil emulsion 80-90% to 12 1/2 gallons of water, or Malathion 57% EC at 1/4 pint to 12 1/2 gallons of water. Cygon has caused injury to some of the ornamentals listed, especially burford holly. If control is needed for fruit trees, contact your county agent. READ AND HEED LIMITATIONS AND PRECAUTIONS GIVEN ON MANUFACTURERS' LABELS.

Fig. 1: Pear shaped female oleander scale on leaf of bird-of-paradise with male scale (X10).

Fig. 2: Cluster of male oleander scales on leaf of bird-of-paradise. A few female scale are present (X6).

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**DISTRIBUTION IN FLORIDA:** Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Citrus, Clay, Dade, De Soto, Duval, Gadsden, Hillsborough, Indian River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lake, Lee, Leon, Manatee, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, St. Lucie, Santa Rosa, Seminole, and Volusia counties (Fig. 4).

![Map of Florida showing distribution of Oleander scale](image)

**Fig. 3:** OLEANDER SCALE ON BIRD-OF-PARADISE. SLIGHTLY REDUCED.

**Fig. 4:** FLORIDA DISTRIBUTION

*Phenacaspis cockerelli* (Cooley)

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