

# Pest Alert

FDACS-P-01692

**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry**  
**Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture**

---

## **Stellate scale, *Vinsonia stellifera* (Westwood) Coccoidea: Coccidae**

**Greg Hodges**, [Greg.Hodges@FreshFromFlorida.com](mailto:Greg.Hodges@FreshFromFlorida.com), Taxonomic Entomologist, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry

**INTRODUCTION:** The stellate scale was eradicated from Florida in 1954. Division of Plant Industry inspectors Jo Ann Pate and Leonard Coleman collected this re-emerging pest species on July 16, 2002, in Miami Lakes, Dade County from *Ixora* sp. Since the initial collection, further specimens have been found in Hialeah, Miami, and Miami Lakes. Identified samples have been seen on the following host plants: *Ixora coccinea*, *Ixora* sp., *Schefflera actinophylla*, and *S. arboricola*.

**DESCRIPTION:** The adult females and immature stages are covered with a semi-transparent to white wax (Fig. 1). The shape of the body is star-shaped with the center of the body being strongly convex. The size of the adult female varies from 3-5 mm across the rays (Fig. 2). The color of the living insect is pink to purplish-red. Crawlers are light green to yellow in color. Life history information is poorly known.

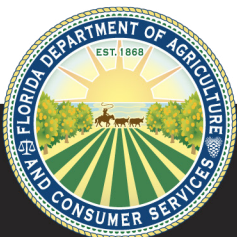
**ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE:** This insect is considered a potential threat to Florida because of its occurrence on citrus, mango and many ornamentals.

**HOSTS:** **Anacardiaceae:** *Mangifera indica*; **Apocynaceae:** *Alstonia scholaris*, *Ervatamia orientalis*, *Plumeria acutifolia*; **Araliaceae:** *Meryta macrophylla*, *Schefflera actinophylla*, *Schefflera arboricola*; **Aspleniaceae:** *Asplenium*; **Celastraceae:** *Lophopetalum*; **Ebenaceae:** *Diospyros discolor*; **Euphorbiaceae:** *Bischofia javanica*; **Guttiferae:** *Garcinia mangostana*, *G. myrtifolia*, *G. spicata*, *G. subelliptica*; **Lauraceae:** *Cinnamomum camphora*, *Persea Americana*; **Leguminosae:** *Palaquium formosanum*; **Liliaceae:** *Asparagus sprengeri*; **Moreaceae:** *Artocarpus integra*, *Ficus antimesma*, *F. benghalensis*; **Musaceae:** *Musa*; **Myrsinaceae:** *Ardisia polycephala*; **Myrtaceae:** *Eucalyptus*, *Eugenia aquea*, *E. corynocarpa*, *E. jamobalana*, *E. jambos*, *E. malaccensis*, *Syzygium cumini*; **Orchidaceae:** *Broughtonia sanguinea*, *Cattleya*, *Cyripedium niveum*, *Epidendrum ciliare*, *Stanhopea*; **Palmae:** *Cocos rucifera*, *Nypa*; **Polypodiaceae:** *Adiantum*; **Rubiaceae:** *Gardenia caimito* *Ixora*; **Sapotaceae:** *Lucuma caimito*; **Stilaginaceae:** *Antidesmia bunius*; **Strelitziaceae:** *Ravenala madagascariensis*; **Zingiberaceae:** *Aplinia purpurata*.

**DISTRIBUTION:** The stellate scale has been recorded from several regions--**Australasian:** Australia, Fiji, Ponape Island, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga; **Afrotropical:** Angola, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Cape Verde, Kenya, Mauritius, Reunion, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zanzibar; **Neartic:** Alabama, Florida, Georgia; **Oriental:** India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam; **Palaearctic:** Netherlands; and **Neotropical:** Brazil, Barbados, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Virgin Islands.

### **REFERENCES:**

- Ben-Dov, Y.** 1993. *A systematic catalogue of the soft scale insects of the world. Flora and Fauna handbook No. 9.* Sandhill Crane Press., 536pp.
- Hamon, A.B. and M.L. Williams.** 1984. *The Soft Scale Insects of Florida. (Homoptera: Coccoidea: Coccidae). Arthropods of Florida and neighboring land areas. Vol. 11.* 194 pp.
- Miller, D. et al.** 2002. *Scalenet, A database for scale insects.* <http://www.sel.barc.usda.gov/scalenet/scalenet.htm>



**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**  
**Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner**



Fig. 1. Life stages of stellate scale.  
Photo credit: DPI



Fig. 2. Adult female of stellate scale.  
Photo credit: DPI



Fig. 3. Stellate scale.  
Photo credit: DPI