A New Species of *Planococcus* Ferris (Coccoidea: Homoptera) on Yams in New Guinea

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The following species, submitted for identification by Dr. J. J. H. Szent-Ivany of the Department of Agriculture, New Guinea, has been causing severe damage to yams, especially to the roots in storage. It differs in a few characters from all the known species of Planococcus *and is described below as new.*

The holotype is deposited in the British Museum (Natural History).

PLANOCOCCUS DIOSCOREAE SP. N.

Recognition characters

Adult female oval, attaining a length of 2.5 mm. ; anal lobes moderately developed. Legs well developed, slender, hind coxae and tibiae with a few translucent pores. Circulus rectangular. Ostioles with inner edges of lips sclerotized and with 2-3 setae and a few trilocular pores on each lip. Anal ring with six setae, these about twice as long as diameter of ring. Cerarii numbering 18 pairs, each with a pair of conical setae which tend to be flagellate distally. Anal lobe cerarii each with a small area of sclerotization between the setae and accompanied by about 12 trilocular pores and three auxiliary setae. Anterior cerarii each accompanied by about eight trilocular pores and with space between setae lightly sclerotized.

Dorsal setae ranging from minute and slender to same size as cerarian setae, the latter type usually with 2-4 trilocular pores at the base and sometimes in pairs giving the appearance of dorsal cerarii, these present on all segments except the last. Dorsal tubular ducts of oral collar type confined to marginal areas of, at most, two posterior abdominal segments, often absent entirely. Trilocular pores not numerous.

Ventral surface with cisanal setae slender and about half the length of anal ring setae. Anal lobe bar slender, reaching to base of anal lobe setae. Anal lobe setae about twice as long as anal ring setae ; bar setae situated towards anal lobe setae and about same length as cisanal setae.

Ventral setae not numerous, longer than dorsal setae and all slender. Multilocular disc pores arranged in transverse rows on abdomen at posterior edges of segments. On the eighth segment they are in a more or less double row and anteriorly they lie in single rows. A single row also present on anterior margin of eighth segment and occasional pores present in anterior submedian areas of other abdominal segments. Altogether there are 125-160 pores. Tubular ducts of oral collar type smaller than those of dorsum, in transverse rows on abdominal segments and numerous in groups around the margin including the head. Ducts also present around coxae but groups around procoxae not continuous with marginal groups of prothorax. Trilocular pores sparse.

New Guinea : Sepik District, Maprik Subdistrict, from the following villages : Apangai, 22. V. 1959 ; Aunyelum, 19. VI. 1959, associated with *Technomyrmex ;* Aupik, 20. VI. 1959 ; Bunahoj, 22. VI. 1959 (holotype) ; Gwalip, 19. VI. 1959 ; Naramgo, 19. VI. 1959 ; Neligum, 22. VI. 1959 ; Numakum, 20. VI. 1959 ; Numango, 22. VI. 1959 ; Suanimbu, 19. VI. 1959, associated with *Technomyrmex ;* Tentegun, 23. VI. 1959 ; Yanago, 19. VI. 1959. (J. J. H. Szent-Ivany).

It was found to cause severe damage to roots of yams (*Dioscorea* spp.) in storage.

Notes

This species comes very close to *P. dorsospinosus* Ezzat & McConnell described from material intercepted in U.S.A. from China, but differs in a few constant features. The multilocular disc pores are much fewer, lying in single transverse rows except on the eighth segment where they are in a double row, the total being about 125-160. In *P. dorsospinosus* these pores lie in double rows on the four prevulvar segments, the total being about 350-400. Furthermore, in *P. dorsospinosus* each prothoracic group of tubular ducts extends from the margin and around the procoxae to a point near the labium but in *P. dioscoreae* the prothoracic marginal groups are quite distinct from those around the procoxae.

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