

## Red Wax Scale, *Ceroplastes rubens* Maskell (Insecta: Hemiptera: Coccidae)<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

Red wax scale, *Ceroplastes rubens* Maskell, was first found in Florida at an Orange County nursery on the foliage and stem of greenhouse-grown *Aglaonema pictum* var. *tricolor* and *A. oblongifolium* 'Curtisii' in November 1955. This collection was a new Florida and continental United States record of an introduced plant pest. Introduced foliage plants apparently were responsible for the establishment of this insect in Florida.

### Distribution

Antigua, Australia, Bermuda, Caroline Is., China, Cook Is., Cuba, Dominican Republic, Fiji, France, Guam, Hawaii, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Loyalty Islands, Malaya, Mariana Islands, Mexico, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Philippines, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Is., South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tahiti, Taiwan, Vanuatu and Zanzibar.

### Description

The waxy cover of the adult female is pinkish to red, convex, longer than wide and with two conspicuous pairs of white bands that extend dorsally from the spiracular area. Size: 3.5 to 4.5 mm. The nymphs are pinkish in color.

### Hosts

*Acanthaceae*, *Acer* sp. (maple), *Acrostichum* sp. (fern), *Aglaonema commutatum* Schott, *A. modestum* Schott, *A. nitidum* (jack) Kunth 'Curtisii', *A. pictum* 'Tricolor', *A. commutatum* Schott 'Pseudobracteatum', *A. roebelinii* (Lind.) Gentil., *A. treubii* Engl., *Allamanda cathartica* L. 'Schotti', *Alpinia purpurata* K. Schum., *Alyxia olivaeformis* Gaudich., *Anthurium* sp., *Antidesma* sp. (China laurel), *Artemisia vulgaris* L. (mugwort), *Ardisia japonica* Blume, *Asplenium nidus* L. (bird nest fern), *Aucuba* sp. (golddust plant), *Berberis* sp. (barberry), *Brassaia actinophylla* Endl., (schefflera), *Buxus* sp. (boxwood), *B. microphylla* Sieb., *Calophyllum tomentosum* Wight. (beauty leaf), *Camellia japonica* L., *C. japonica* L., ssp. *rusticana* (Honda) Kitamura, *C. sinensis* (L.) Kuntze (tea), *Capsicum annum* L.

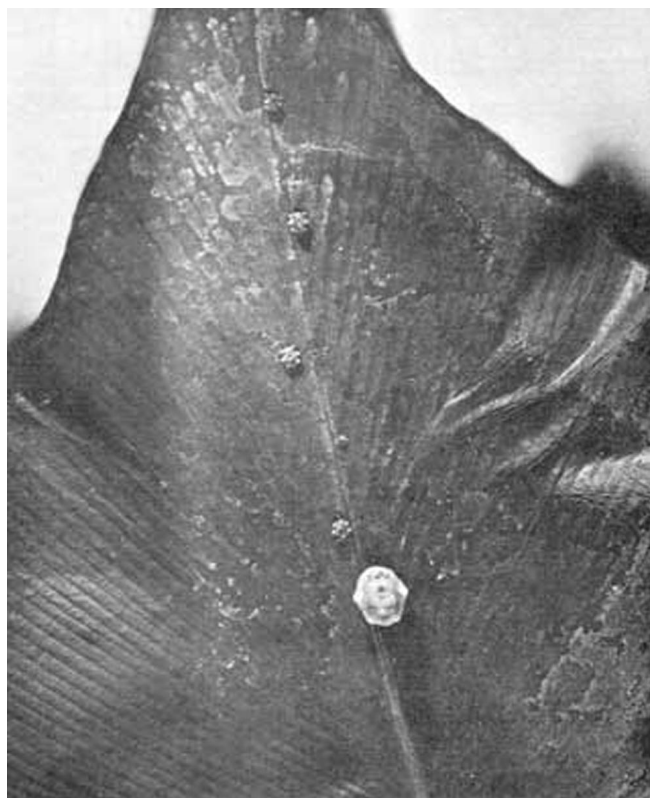
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**Figure 1.** Adult female red wax scale, *Ceroplastes rubens* Maskell, showing the conspicuous pairs of white bands.  
Credits: Division of Plant Industry



**Figure 2.** Adult female and nymphs of the red wax scale, *Ceroplastes rubens* Maskell. Credits: Division of Plant Industry

(pepper), *Celosia argentea* L., var. *cristata* (L.) Kuntze, *Chaenomeles japonica* (Thunb.) Lindl. (flowering quince), *Chrysanthemum sinense* Sabine, *Cibotium* sp. (fern tree), *Cinnamomum pedunculatum* Presl. (cinnamon), *Citrus reticulata* Blanco (mandarin orange), *C. sinensis* (L.) Osbeck (sweet orange), *Cleyera japonica* Thunb., *Cocos nucifera* L. (coconut), *Coffea* sp. (coffee), *Cotoneaster* sp. (ornamental), *Crassula rosularis* Haw. (succulent), *Crataegus* sp. (haw, hawthorn, mayhaw), *Cycas revoluta* Thunb. (Sago palm), *Cydonia oblonga* Mill. (quince), *Cytisus scoparius* Link (Scotch broom), *Daphne odora* Thunb., *Dieffenbachia* sp. (ornamental), *Dioclea violacea* Mart. ex Benth., *Diospyros kaki* L.f. (Japanese persimmon), *Dizygotheca elegantissima* Vig. & Guill. (false aralia), *Duranta repens* L. (skyflower), *Elaeocarpus bifidus* Hook. & Arn., *Elaphoglossum reticulatus* Gaud. (fern), *Epidendrum* sp. (orchid), *Eriobotrya japonica* Lindl. (loquat), *Eucalyptus globulus* Labill. (Tasmanian bluegum), *Eugenia smithii* Poir., *Euonymus europaeus* L. (shrub), *E. japonicus* Thunb. (Japanese evergreen), *E. alata* Maxim., *Eurya emarginata* (Thunb.) Makino, *Fatsia japonica* Decne. & Planch. (aralia), *Ficus carica* L. (fig), *F. faveolata* Wall., *Garcinia spicata* Hook.f., *Gardenia jasminoides* Ellis (gardenia, Cape jasmine), *Grammatophyllum* sp. (orchid), *Hedera helix* L. (English ivy), *Ilex serrata* Thunb. (holly), *Illicium anisatum* L. (anise tree), *Iresine* sp. (bloodleaf), *Ixora* sp. (evergreen shrub), *Kadsura japonica* (Thunb.) Dunal. (Katsura tree), *Laurus nobilis* L. (laurel), *Ligustrum japonicum* Thunb. (privet), *Lindera citridora* Hemsl. (spice bush), *Litchi chinensis* Sonn. (lychee, leechee), *Litsea glauca* Sieb., *Lycium chinense* Mill. (Chinese matrimony vine), *Machilus thunbergii* Sieb., *Magnolia salicifolia* (bay), *M. obovata* Thunb. (bay), *Malus* sp. (apple), *Mangifera indica* L. (mango), *Medinilla* sp., *Melia azedarach* L. (chinaberry, china tree), *Metrosideros villosa* Sm., *Monstera deliciosa* Liebm., *Morus alba* L. (white mulberry), *Myrsine* sp., *Nandina domestica* Thunb., *Nerium oleander* L. (oleander), *Paltonium lanceolatum* Presl. (ribbon fern), *Peperomia* sp. (peperomia), *Persea americana* Mill. (avocado), *Philodendron giganteum* Schott, *Photina glabra* Maxim., *Pilea* L., *Pinus densiflora* Sieb. & Zucc., *P. parviflora* Sieb. & Zucc. (Japanese white pine),

*Pittosporum tobira* (Thunb.) Ait. (pittosporum),  
*Podocarpus nagi* (Thunb.) Makino (podocarpus),  
*Polypodium* sp. (fern), *Poncirus trifoliata* (L.) Raf.  
(trifoliolate orange), *Prunus domestica* L. (peach or  
prune), *P. mume* Sieb. & Zucc., *Psychotria* sp. (wild  
coffee), *Pteris* sp. (brake fern), *Pyrus pyrifolia*  
(Burm.f.) Nakai (sand pear), *Rhododendron indicum*  
Sweet (azalea), *Rhus succedanea* L. (wax-tree), *Rosa*  
sp. (rose), *Schima* sp., *Spartium junceum* L. (Spanish  
broom), *Spirea thunbergii* Sieb. (spirea,  
bridalwreath), *Stanhopea* sp., *Straussia* sp.,  
*Strobilanthes japonicus* Miq. (lavenderbell),  
*Symplocos japonica* DC., *Todea barbara* (L.) Moore,  
*Tamarix chinensis* Lour. (salt cedar, tamarix),  
*Wisteria* sp. (wisteria), *Zantedsechia* sp. (calla).

### **Economic Importance**

This scale has been reported to be an economic pest on citrus.

### **Management**

See the Insect Management Guide for Woody Ornamentals.

### **Selected References**

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