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Observations on the Indian Wax Scale on *Michelia champaka* avenue trees in Bengaluru

Chetan S, Allan Britto and Jayashankar M*
Department of Zoology, School of Life Sciences,
St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Bengaluru-560027, Karnataka, India
Corresponding author: jayashankar.m@sjc.ac.in

The Indian wax scale, *Ceroplates ceriferus* (Fabricus) (Homoptera: Coccidae) an invasive polyphagous pest of economic importance to many ornamentals is a soft scale insect with a characteristic thick wax test covering the body of the adult female (https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/12342). Infestations weaken the infested plants, with reduced growth; also deposits of honeydew from these sucking pests enable sooty mold growth hampering growth of plants. Observations on the incidence *C. ceriferus* (Fabricus) on *Michelia champaka* (Linneus) avenue trees on the Museum Road, Bengaluru was undertaken during April 2022. The method used in the current survey involved manual counting. The scales present at different heights on each tree were counted. The data is restricted to 14 feet height of the trees considering the visual feasibility. Of the 32 trees observed, 21 had the presence of the scale insect and a *Terminalia catappa* tree adjacent to the *M. champaka* had the scale (Figs. 1 & 2). The wax scales were observed on the branches compared to the main stem. The trees infested by a large number of scale insects were observed to be malnourished, with thinning of branches. It was also noticed that the plant part where the wax scales were most prevalent was in the height range of 6-8 feet (Fig. 3). Proper care in terms of monitoring the spread and impact of the pest needs to be initiated.

Fig. 1: Indian wax scale (Star stage) infestation on *M. champaka* in the location

Fig. 2: Spread of wax scale from *M. champaka* to adjacent *T. catappa*

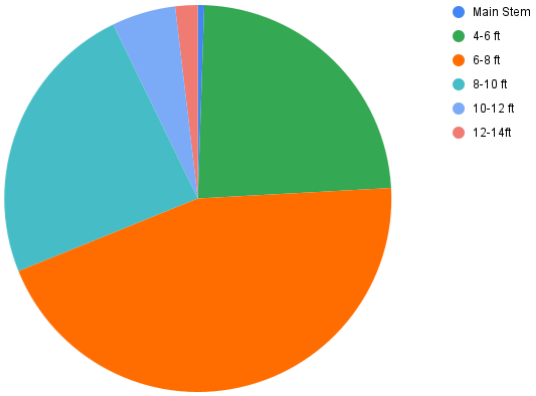

Fig. 3: Graph showing wax scales at different heights

Reference

https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/12342

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