

OBSERVATIONS ON THE STRIPED MEALYBUG, FERRISIA VIRGATA
(COCKERELL) OCCURRING ON TEMPLE TREE,
PLUMIERIA ALBA, IN JAFFNA PENINSULA

G.F. Rajendram and Balanageswarie Krishnapillai
Dept. of Zoology, University of Jaffna.

A mealybug infesting the temple tree Plumieria alba in Jaffna peninsula was identified as Ferrisia virgata (Cockerell).

Eggs are oval in shape and average 0.23 mm long and 0.14 mm wide. The eggs hatch after 5-10 days. The first instar nymphs average 1.33 mm long and 0.62 mm wide and have 6-segmented antennae. The second instar nymphs average 1.45 mm long and 0.72 mm wide and have 7-segmented antennae. The third instar nymphs average 1.72 mm long and 0.81 mm wide and have 8-segmented antennae. The adult female is elongate oval, averaging 2.45 mm long and 1.32 mm wide, and has 8-segmented antennae. Caudal filaments are half the length of the body. The dorsum has reduced cerarii. Though the adult male was not noted in this study, it could not be determined if the Sri Lankan species is uniparental or biparental (Nur 1977).

Previously described from Sri Lanka as Dactylopius talini Green in 1986, F. virgata has been reported from South Pacific area and Australia as an economically important pest on ornamental trees and cotton (Williams and Watson 1988).

References: Nur, U. 1977. Research Division Bulletin.
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University 127:69-84.

Williams, D.J. and G.W. Watson. 1988. The
scale insects of tropical South Pacific
region. C.A.B. International Institute of
Entomology, London.