

Ensign Scale (*Orthezia praelonga*)



Ensign scale colony on croton leaf. Note females with long egg sacs (arrow)



Male Ensign scales

Crop and Plant Protection Unit
Bodles Agriculture Research Station
Old Harbour P.O.
St. Catherine
Jamaica

Phone: 876-983-2267
Fax: 876-983-2822
E-mail: ppu@moa.gov.jm

- Ensign scale *Orthezia praelonga* is a local pest of ornamentals particularly croton, bougainvillea, poinsettia and lantana; and some fruit trees

- The ensign scale is a sap sucking insect whose feeding results in unthrifty plants, defoliation and eventual death

- Females and young are usually seen on the underside of leaves along with the presence of black sooty mould

- The females are easily identified by their long waxy egg sac that protrudes behind the body. A single female produces an average of 120 eggs in her lifetime.

- Unlike the females the males are delicate in appearance being smaller, grey, with wings and long white fringes. In flight the males are often confused with whiteflies but are in fact scale insects

- A number of local natural enemies have been observed feeding on the ensign scale these include ladybird beetles, and the larvae of green lacewings



Ladybird beetle predator *Scymnus* sp. of ensign scale



Scymnus ladybird beetle larva feeding on third instar ensign scale

Indiscriminate use of chemicals has resulted in challenges to managing this pest and this is compounded by the movement of infested material.