**Orthezia insignis**  

**Common name**: cochinilla blanca menor de los citricos (Spanish, Colombia), Lantana bug (English), Orthezia scale (English), jacaranda bug (English), greenhouse Orthezia (English), escama blanca del croto (Spanish, Spain), chinche harinosa del croto (Spanish, Spain), Lantana blight (English, East Africa), Geweichshaus-Roehrenschildlaus (German, Germany), marsupial coccid (English, California), Croton bug (English, England and Wales), glasshouse Orthezia (English, England and Wales), Kew bug (English, England and Wales), Maui blight (English, Hawaii)

**Synonym**

**Similar species**

**Summary**

The scale insect *Orthezia insignis* damages the host plant by feeding on its phloem and excreting nutrients which promote the growth of sooty mold. Biocontrol using the coccinellid predator *Hyperaspis pantherina* has proven to be successful in controlling the scale insect on Saint Helena (in the South Atlantic Ocean).

**Uses**

*Orthezia insignis* may have uses for biocontrol of the invasive shrub lantana (Broughton 2000).

**Reproduction**

*Orthezia insignis* is a mobile scale insect, which as an adult female has a large wax ovisac. The species is parthenogenetic. The eggs hatch inside the ovisac and the 1st instar nymphs then move out to feed (Fowler 2005).

**Nutrition**

*Orthezia insignis* is highly polyphagous (CBD 2001).

**General Impacts**

The scale insect *Orthezia insignis* damages the host plant by feeding on its phloem and excreting nutrients which promote the growth of sooty mold. It may threaten indigenous plants.
Management Info

Biological: *Orthezia insignis* has a history of successful biological control in Hawaii, and several African countries, through the introduction between 1908 and 1959 of the predatory South American coccinellid beetle, *Hyperaspis pantherina* (Fowler 2005). Successful biological control and protection of indigenous flora from the scale insect has also been achieved by *H. pantherina* on the island of Saint Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean; the action was successful in saving a field population of an ‘Endangered (ER)’ endemic gumwood species (see *Commidendrum robustum* in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) from extinction (Fowler 2004; 2005). For more information on the rearing and transport of *H. pantherina* for use in biocontrol of *O. insignis* please see: Fowler, S.V. 2005. The successful control of *Orthezia insignis* on St. Helena saved natural populations of endemic gumwood trees *Commidendrum robustum*.

Pathway

*Orthezia insignis* has been accidentally introduced into many tropical countries on imported plants.

Principal source:

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Review:

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**ALIEN RANGE**

[1] AFRICA

[1] INDIA

[1] MALAWI

[1] TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF

[1] UNITED STATES

[1] BERMUDA

[1] KENYA

[2] SAINT HELENA

[1] UGANDA

**Red List assessed species 1: EN = 1;**

*Commidendrum robustum* EN

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

8 references found for *Orthezia insignis*

Management information

Summary: Abstract: Between 1908 and 1959, the predatory coccinellid, Hyperaspis pantherina Fuersch, was released for the biological control of the ensign scale Orthezia insignis Browne in Hawaii, four African countries and Peru. Substantial control was reported after all the releases, although the outcome was disputed in Malawi. Other coccinellid species and predatory Diptera were released against Orthezia spp. in various programmes from 1952 to 1977. In most cases these agents failed to establish, and there were no reported effects on the target Orthezia spp. In 1983, H. pantherina was released in St Helena for the control of O. insignis on the endemic gumwood tree, Commidendrum robustum (Compositae). Preparatory investigations for this release revealed that the taxonomy and biology of this biocontrol agent were poorly known. Hyperaspis pantherina is redescribed and shown to be the correct name for the species previously known incorrectly as H. jocosa (Mulsant). Hyperaspis laeta Gorham and H. levratii (Mulsant) are transferred to the genus Cyra Mulsant (comb. n.). Hyperaspis metator (Casey) (stat. rev.) is resurrected from synonymy with H. levratii auct.

Studies of the life history revealed that H. pantherina normally lays its eggs directly onto the adult female O. insignis and that the first two instars of the larvae are frequently passed inside the ovisac of the female host, after which the host itself is often consumed. The information on the biology and taxonomy of H. pantherina, together with details of culturing methods, should facilitate the further use of this agent for the classical biological control of O. insignis, a pantropical pest. Broughton, Sonya. 2000. Commentary: Review and Evaluation of Lantana Biocontrol Programs, Biological Control 17 (3): 272-286.

CABI Crop Protection Compendium, 2007, Orthezia insignis Browne


General information

ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System). 2009. Online Database Orthezia insignis Browne, 1887

Summary: An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals. Available from: http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=200703 [Accessed 10 February 2009]