Icerya purchasi **System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Margarodidae

Common name cottony cushion scale (English)

Synonym

Similar species

Summary The cottony cushion scale insect *Icerya purchasi* causes the decline of indigenous plants on the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

view this species on IUCN Red List

Nutrition
The cottony cushion scale insect feeds on plant sap (Charles Darwin foundation 2006b).

General Impacts
The cottony cushion scale *Icerya purchasi* causes the premature loss of fruits and leaves, dieback of branches and death of some Galapagos plants and threatens valuable natural habitats particularly mangrove stands. *I. purchasi* also produces large quantities of honeydew which may encourage the growth of black sooty moulds that cover the leaves of the plant preventing photosynthesis (Charles Darwin foundation 2006b).

Management Info
The Australian ladybug *Rodalia cardinalis* Mulsant (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) has been under investigation as a potential and safe biocontrol agent for the cottony cushion scale insect in the Galapagos Islands (Hoddle 2004; Causton *et al*, 2004). Preliminary results appear positive. Before the release of *R. cardinalis*, the mangrove stands of the town of Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island were blackened and dying from the effects of the cottony cushion scale. These mangroves are now green and thriving (Charles Darwin foundation 2006a).

Principal source:

Compiler: IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the EU-funded South Atlantic Invasive Species project, coordinated by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Review:

Pubblication date: 2009-04-28

ALIEN RANGE

[1] BERMUDA
[1] MONTSERRAT
[1] ECUADOR
[2] SAINT HELENA

Red List assessed species 4: CR = 4;

Camarhynchus heliobates **CR**
Euphorbia origanoides **CR**
Medicago citrina **CR**
Scalesia atractyloides **CR**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

10 references found for **Icerya purchasi**

Managment information

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Gray, A. 2003. *Euphorbia origanoides*. In: IUCN 2008. 2008 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. . Downloaded on 06 November 2008

Summary: Available from: http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/43921 [Accessed 25 October 2009]

ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System), 2009. Online Database *Icerya purchasi* Maskell, 1878

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=200699 [Accessed 25 October 2009]