Taxonomic revision of the myrmecophilous, meliponiphilous and rhizophilous soft scale genus *Cryptostigma* Ferris (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Coccidae)

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(*Zootaxa* 2709)

72 pp.; 30 cm.

3 December 2010


FIRST PUBLISHED IN 2010 BY

Magnolia Press

P.O. Box 41-383

Auckland 1346

New Zealand

e-mail: zootaxa@mapress.com

http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

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ISSN 1175-5326 (Print edition)

ISSN 1175-5334 (Online edition)
Abstract

The present study revises the soft scale insects of the genus Cryptostigma Ferris (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Coccidae), which comprises a group of New World species associated with ants or bees or of hypogeal habit. It includes 17 species, of which 10 species are new to science. The study is based on the external, mostly cuticular morphology of the adult females and first-instar nymphs. Taxonomic keys based on adult females and known first-instar nymphs are provided. For each species a description or redescription is given, followed by information on its distribution, host plants, and known biological information including associated ants or bees. The new species described are Cryptostigma chacoensis sp. nov., C. gullanæ sp. nov., C. jonmartini sp. nov., C. longinoi sp. nov., C. melissophilum sp. nov., C. mexicanum sp. nov., C. phillwardi sp. nov., C. rhizophilum sp. nov., C. serratum sp. nov., and C. tuberculostum sp. nov. Neolecanium urichi (Cockerell) is transferred to Cryptostigma as C. urichi (Cockerell) comb. nov., and C. quinquepori (Newstead) is synonymized with Cryptostigma urichi, comb. nov. Lectotypes are designated for Cryptostigma saundersi Laing, Lecanium silveirai Hempel, Lecanium urichi Cockerell and Akermes quinquepori Newstead. Cryptostigma inquilina (Newstead) is amended to C. inquilinum in order to match the neutral ending “stigma”. The following names are treated as nomina nuda: Cryptostigma jamaicensis and Lecanopsis jamaicensis (Ben-Dov, 1993: 97).

Key words: Cryptostigma, taxonomic keys, Myzolecaniinae, soft scales

Resumen

El presente estudio revisa las escamas blandas del género Cryptostigma Ferris (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Coccidae), cual está compuesto por especies del Nuevo Mundo asociadas con hormigas, abejas sin aguijón o de hábitos subterráneos.