

Short Communication

New synonymies for two armoured scale insects (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Diaspididae) on *Dysoxylum spectabile*

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The authors of ScaleNet (Ben-Dov *et al.*, 2001), a systematic database of the scale insects (Coccoidea) of the world, are currently building the database of the Diaspididae (armoured scale insects), the largest family that will be placed on this web site. In response to a query from ScaleNet about two armoured scale insects that are commonly found on the New Zealand native tree kohekohe, *Dysoxylum spectabile* (Forster f.) Hook f., I decided to clarify their nomenclature for entry into that database and include all the Maskell species on native plants that are now synonymised with *Aspidiotus nerii* Bouché and *Pinnaspis dysoxylis* (Maskell) for the benefit of New Zealand researchers.

***Aspidiotus nerii* Bouché, 1833**

– oleander scale

Aspidiotus atherospermae Maskell, 1879: 198;

Borschenius, 1966: 264; Wise, 1977: 112;

Deitz & Tocker, 1980: 33

Aspidiotus dysoxylis Maskell, 1879: 198;

Borschenius 1966: 269; Wise, 1977: 112;

Deitz & Tocker, 1980: 36 NEW SYNONYMY

Aspidiotus sophorae Maskell, 1884: 121;

Borschenius, 1966: 264; Wise, 1977: 112;

Deitz & Tocker 1980: 42

Aspidiotus carpodeti Maskell, 1885: 21;

Borschenius, 1966: 264; Wise, 1977: 112;

Deitz & Tocker, 1980: 34

A lectotype for *Aspidiotus dysoxylis* Maskell is here designated for taxonomic stability. The type material consists of two females on a single slide bearing the labels “*Aspidiotus dysoxylis* and *Mytilaspis pyriformis*, from *Dysoxylum*, Females and puparia, Aug. 1877, W.M.M.” / “*Aspidiotus dysoxylis* Maskell, 1879 [pharate ♀], Lectotype, desig. by RC Henderson, = *Aspidiotus nerii* Bouché, + *Pinnaspis dysoxylis* (Maskell, 1885) ♀, det. RC Henderson 2001”. The lectotype is the pharate adult female within its 2nd-instar derm. Type depository: New Zealand Arthropod Collection. Maskell misidentified the second female on the slide

as *Mytilaspis pyriformis* Maskell which I have identified as *Pinnaspis dysoxylis* (Maskell). Maskell’s (1879) description and illustration of *A. dysoxylis* clearly represent *A. nerii* Bouché.

William Maskell described four *Aspidiotus* species from native plants between 1879 and 1885, three of which have previously been synonymised with the cosmopolitan oleander scale, *Aspidiotus nerii* Bouché. From my examination of the syntype slide of the fourth species, *Aspidiotus dysoxylis* Maskell, 1879, it is now proposed also as a junior synonym of *A. nerii*.

Pinnaspis dysoxylis* (Maskell, 1885)Chionaspis dysoxylis* Maskell, 1885: 22*Chionaspis minor* Maskell, 1885: 23;

Borschenius, 1966: 371; Wise, 1977: 109;

Deitz & Tocker, 1980: 39 NEW SYNONYMY

Phenacaspis dysoxylis (Maskell); Borschenius, 1966:

121; Wise, 1977: 109

Pinnaspis dysoxylis (Maskell); Deitz & Tocker, 1980:

36 [new comb.; lectotype designated];

Takagi, 1985: 45

A lectotype for *Chionaspis minor* Maskell is here designated for taxonomic stability. The type material consists of an adult female on a slide bearing the labels: “*Chionaspis minor*, adult female, from *Parsonsia*, Nov 1884, W.M.M.”. / “Lectotype, *Chionaspis minor* Maskell, 1885, desig. by RC Henderson”. Type depository: New Zealand Arthropod Collection. I have examined the syntype slide of *Chionaspis minor* Maskell and although the female is old and much of the body is difficult to observe, the pygidial characters are clear, distinctive of *Pinnaspis dysoxylis* (Maskell) and fall within the range of variation found in populations of this common native armoured scale. Maskell (1885) described these two species sequentially, and *P. dysoxylis* has page preference over *C. minor*. Maskell’s record of *Parsonsia* as the host plant of *C. minor* may have been in error because *P. dysoxylis* is normally associated with *Dysoxylum spectabile* and *Melicytus* species.

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