





Technical Bulletin for: Long-tailed Mealybug

Pseudococcus longispinus (Targioni-Tozzetti) • Hemiptera, *Pseudococcidae* • PSELON



DISTRIBUTION	Widely distributed worldwide, notably in the warmer parts of America, Europe, Australia and Africa
HOSTS	Wide host range including air plant, asparagus, avocado, banyan, begonia, betel-nut, caladium, coconut and other palms, coffee, citrus, cycads, dracaena, gardenia, floral ginger, guava, heliconia, hibiscus, kamani, lilies, macadamia, mango, orchids, philodendron, pigeon pea, pineapple and other bromeliads, potato, sugar cane, soybeans,
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	About 3-5 mm in length and oval in shape. The body of the female is yellowish-gray, with a darker stripe on the midline. Body is covered in a powdery white wax with waxy filaments. Males are very different from females; they are smaller, red in color and have hardened transparent wings. Though also develop waxy white tails at maturity.
Larvae	Resemble small orange-brown adult females. Female nymphs undergo 3 instars, while males undergo 2.
Eggs	Eggs usually hatch within the females and nymphs are born live. If laid, they are straw yellow then deepen in color.
LIFE HISTORY	The Long-tailed mealybug breeds all year. There are three to four generations depending upon locality and seasonal factors. During the summer all life stages are found on leaves and fruit, but when the weather becomes colder, the mealybugs move to more sheltered places such as under bark where they continue to reproduce. Breeding is slower at the lower winter temperatures. The time for a generation varies from 1 month in the heat of summer to 4 months during the cold of winter. Adult males do not feed and live only a few days, while females live 2-3 months.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	2-1me5me5me-2-cyclopentenyl-ethyl acetate and 2-(1,5,5-Trimethylcyclopent-2-enyl)-ethyl acetate in a Gray Rubber Septum. Lure longevity: Ninety (90) days.	
TRAP TO USE	Scale Card, Delta traps	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Sanitation is important in field control. Infested material should not be used as mulch but should be removed from the field and destroyed. Hot water dips successfully kill mealybugs; commodities vary in their tolerance to the treatment.	

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