

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Camellia Scale

Scientific Name: *Lepidosaphes camelliae* HOKE

Order and Family: Hemiptera: Diaspididae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1 mm	Small, cluster kept underneath female within covering, on underside of leaves.
Larva/Nymph	1.5-3 mm	<p>Instar 1: Thin cap present over body, 2 “horn-like” projections.</p> <p>Instar 2-3: Male: turn purple, cylindrical body, grow to 1.5 mm. Female: shell thickens, becomes darker.</p>
Adult	1.5-2.5 mm	<p>Female: Larger than male, light brown, “oyster shell” hard covering, purple coloration common in older insects.</p> <p>Male: Smaller than female, white-brown color, wings, delicate.</p>
Pupa (if applicable)	1 mm	Males can enter a pupa form, which will be present on underside of leaves and be whitish in color.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Camellia Scale, like all members of the order Hemiptera, have piercing/sucking mouthparts used to consume fluids directly from plant material.

Host plant/s: Camellia is the host of choice for *L. camelliae*, hence its namesake. It is an invasive pest from Asia where it fed primarily on *Camellia japonica*. It has become a pest of our native Camellia, as well as Hollies and Magnolia.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Members of the Diaspididae family are hard to detect due to their uncanny ability to blend in with the plant material they are residing on. All armored scales feature a “shell-like” cover as adults that helps protect not only themselves, but often the eggs of females they hide under their bodies. They are sessile as adults and generally are found on the underside of leaves in a mass of other scales.

Armored scales are a challenge as they are designed to blend into plant material and often are found on out of site regions of plants. Commonly, they feed on the undersides of leaves where they extract plant tissues and fluids. They tend to feed in groups and many can be present on the same leaf at the same time. This feeding produces orange and yellow splotches on the upper-side of the leaf similar to feeding done by the Tea Scale. The Camellia Scale tends to produce a brighter yellow splotch than the Tea Scale, which is a trick used to distinguish the two while scouting.

References:

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