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A NEW DIASPINE COCCID FROM SOUTH AFRICA

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Chionaspis asparagi, new species

Puparium of adult female typically chionaspiform, narrow, snowy-white; exuviae pale brown marginally, darker centrally, both tipped with orange and with distinct median longitudinal ridges. Length, 2 to 2.5 mm.

Puparium of male obtusely tricarinate, snow-white; pellicle very pale yellow.

Adult female clearing completely in caustic potash, longish oval to linear, the length approximately two and one-half times the breadth; cuticle finely striated

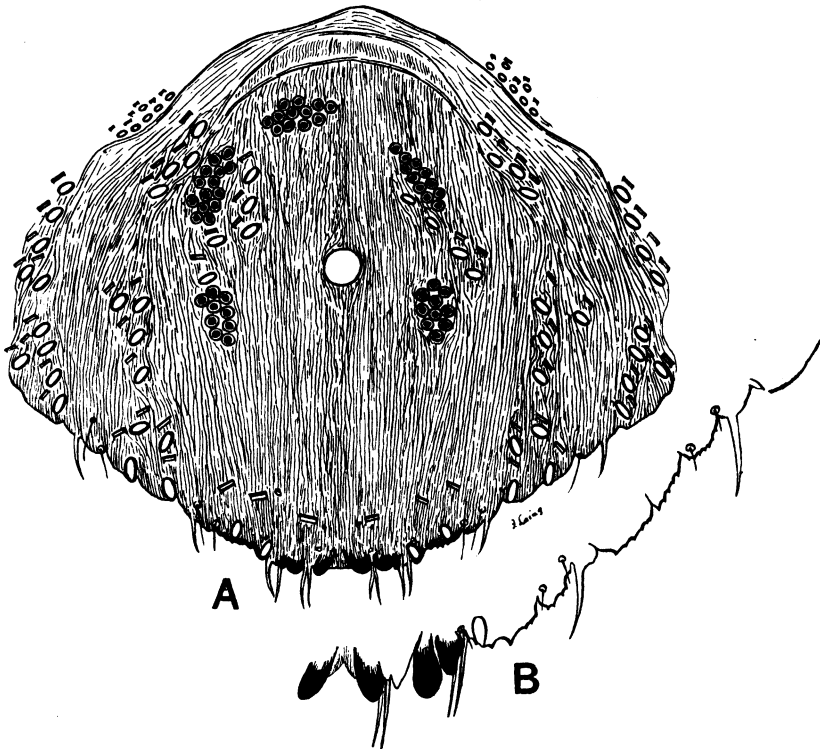


Fig. 1. *Chionaspis asparagi*, new species. A, pygidium; B, pygidian fringe of adult female.

transversely; antennal tubercles well developed, with a single stout, curved seta; cephalic area with a few minute setae; both pairs of spiracles with a small group (1-3) of parastigmatic pores, the anterior pair with the larger number; the last two free abdominal segments only with pores and gland-spines on the marginal area. Pygidium with an exceedingly pliable fringe rendering a definite outline difficult to obtain in preparations; none of the trullae projecting distinctly from the margin nor strongly developed; L_1 almost contiguous at base, diverging strongly apically, so that the inner margin of each forms a well-defined curve from base to apex; L_2 duplex, the inner lobule short and broad, the outer small and poorly developed; margin beyond with several gland-bearing prominences, and crenulate-serrate; spiniform squamulae very long; the marginal series of tubipores conspicuous; dorsal pores consisting of 3-5 anteriors in first series, often asymmetrical, 4 posteriors and 4-5 anteriors in second series; perivulvar pores in five well-defined groups, the formula 9; 14; 8; 14; 10. Length, 1.3 mm.

Natal, South Africa, on wild asparagus (Prof. R. B. Cowles). Type specimen in The American Museum of Natural History.

Professor Cowles writes that the scale was found only on scattered plants, but where found was abundant.

The species belongs to the *stanotophri*¹-*berlesii* group of the genus, and resembles most closely *C. berlesii* Leonardi, but may at once be distinguished by the much longer squamulae, and apart from the weakness of the pygidial fringe, very noticeable when making a preparation, other characters which may serve to separate the two are the distance separating the median trullae, the outer lobule of L_2 and the quite different arrangement of the dorsal pores in series 3. *C. stanotophri* has an additional pair of lobes, and the margin is different. *C. berlesii* was found on asparagus in Portici, Italy.

¹Cooley, when describing *Chionaspis stanotophri* used this spelling and called the plant *Stanotaphrum glabrum*. The name of the plant genus is, however, *Stenotaphrum*, and theoretically the coccid should be known as *C. stenotaphri* Cooley.