

## 5.0 Good Agricultural Practices and Health Safety

- Control insect pest infestations could to avoid loss of quality and overbearing dieback.
- Use only recommended dosage and amounts of pesticides to prevent residue accumulation.
- Use Personal Protective Equipment when applying agro-chemicals .



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## Identification and management **STAR SCALE INSECT PEST** (*Asterolecanium coffeae* ) **in Coffeee**



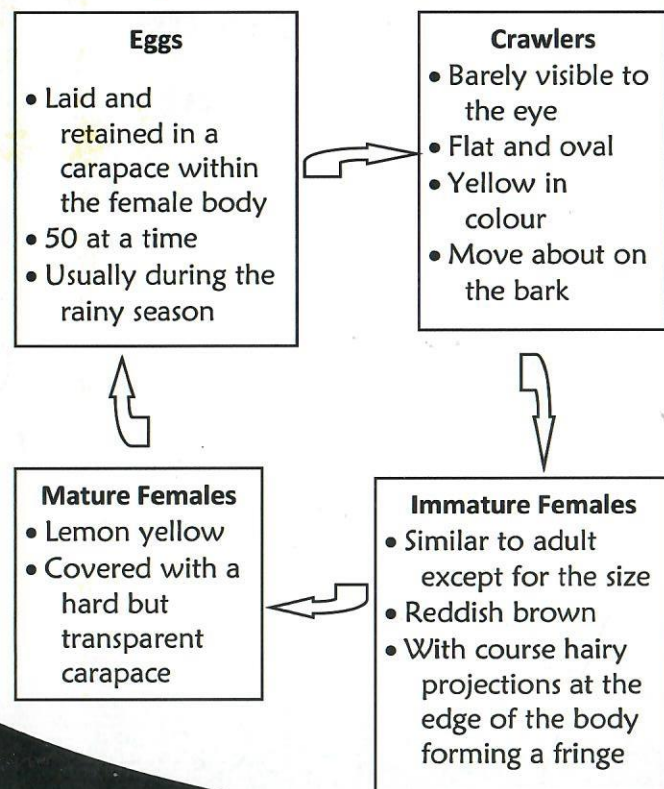
## 1.0 Symptoms

- Green branches bent at nodes with pits in green bark beneath the bend.
- Drooping dead leaves on affected nodes.
- Numerous small red or yellow substances are found in the bark crevices especially near the ground.

## 2.0 Alternate hosts

Apart from coffee trees, the star scale has also been observed Jacaranda and Loquat trees.

## 3.0 Life Cycle



## NOTE:

- The cycle from the eggs to maturity takes 6 months
- Males are small winged insects and are very rare.
- Fertilization of the eggs is infrequent.

## 4.0 Management

### 4.1 Biological

- Ladybird beetles and their larvae are often found wandering about the bark eating crawlers.
- Parasitised scales turn into a dark-brown or black colour and are easily distinguished from the reddish-brown healthy adults.
- The adult parasites emerge from the scales through a neat circular hole on the carapace.

### 4.2 Cultural

- Prune infested trees severely and strip off the crop. Cut off severely infested heads.
- Burn the infested pruned branches.
- Apply optimum recommended rate of nitrogen fertiliser and mulch to infested trees.
- Where road dust promotes infestation, plant live dust barrier such as kei apple.

### 4.3 Chemical

Paint as much as possible of the infested brown bark with:

- 1000 ml of Tar oil 5% (Mortegg 50 MO or Ovicide 50 EC) in 20 lit of water or
- 700 ml of Marshall 25% EC in 20 lit water.
- Apply the mixture to soak / drench into the crevices.
- Do not apply the mixtures to leaves or green bark because they may be scorched.
- Take care not to splash the mixture into the eyes.
- Choose a hot dry day during the rains or soon after to apply the mixture.



Star scales on main stem