

WOOLLY APHID (*Eriosoma lanigerum*)

Woolly Apple aphid
parasitized by Aphelinus



Aphelinus wasp



Detail showing
filamentous wax

Colony on trunk of apple
On the scar tissue formed
after cutting of a twig.



WOOLLY APHID

Description

Woolly Aphid are hidden by a woolly and filamentous wax covering. Adults overwinter on bark, in cankers or on roots give birth in spring to live female nymphs. Heavy infestations form dense whitish colonies. Adults and nymphs feed by sucking up sap from woody parts or tender shoots but never from leaves. Injection of toxic saliva cause blisters and cankers. Flying aphids appear in July to form new colonies.

Monitoring

Woolly Aphid usually spread from low in the tree or from the rootstock. Monitor for colonies after blossom and check for predation by *Aphelinus mali*: hardened, black, aphid mummies with a circular exit hole cut by the adult parasite as it emerges from the aphid.

Threshold for woolly aphid: 4% of trees with aphids on extension growth.

Control

Woolly Aphid is not controlled by imidacloprid: the usual treatment is pirimicarb. For small areas, painting with alcohol is effective. Plant new apple orchards on resistant rootstocks.

The parasitic wasp, *A. mali*, was introduced to Afghanistan but has not been seen recently. Earwigs are good woolly aphid predators, but are not common in Afghanistan.