



NEW PEST ALERT!

RED-STRIPED SOFT SCALE INSECT



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Pulvinaria tenuivalvata

It is an emerging pest of sugarcane in the Philippines.

The initial observation of the insect pest took place in Bacolor, Pampanga. From this date, reports of red-striped soft scale insect began to continue in other parts of Luzon.



June 2022

Initial observation of the insect pest in Bacolor, Pampanga.



February 2023

First observation recorded within SRA-LAREC, Pampanga.



July 2023

First official report filed in Balayan, Batangas.

Pest infestation was recently observed at **Tuy and Calaca, Batangas and Calamba, Laguna** last October 2023.

PEST IDENTIFICATION

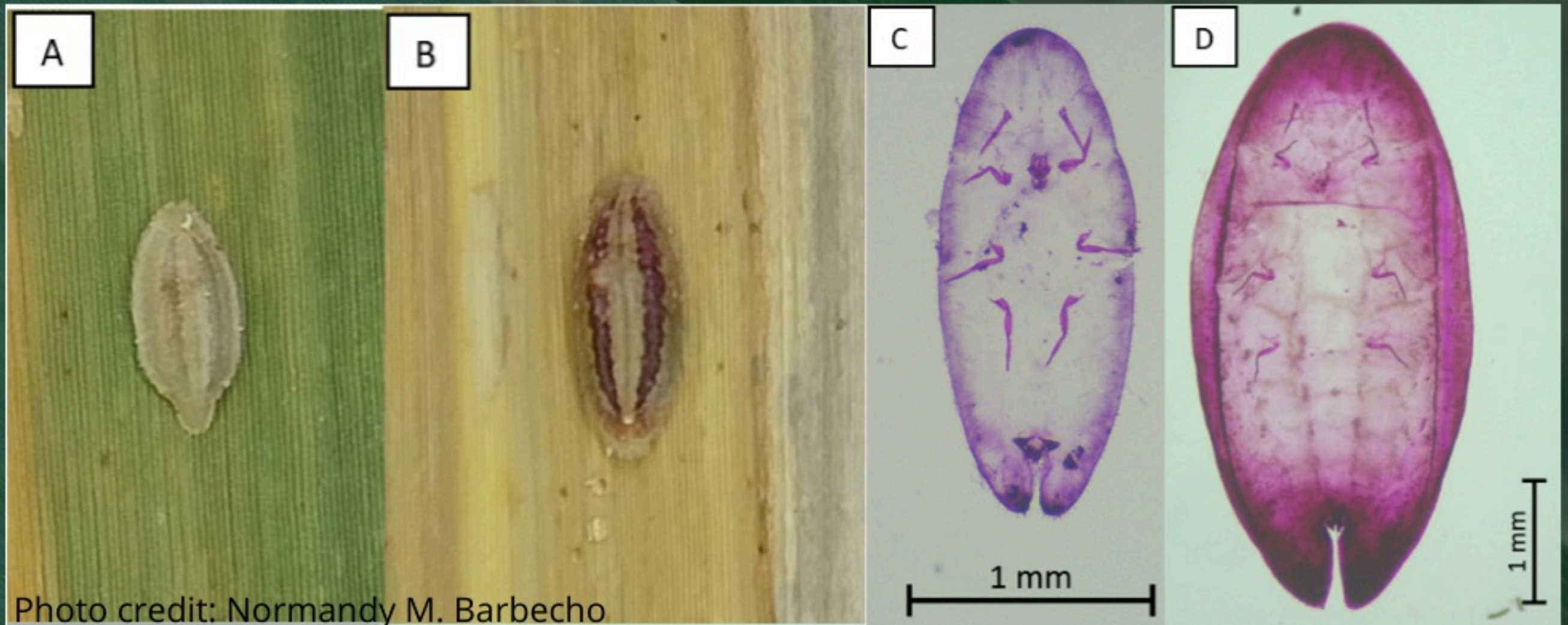


Photo credit: Normandy M. Barbecho

Habitus and slide-mounted specimens of teneral (A, C) and mature (B, D) adult females of the red-striped soft scale insect collected from Pampanga. **Source: National Crop Protection Center**

Full grown adult of *Pulvinaria tenuivalvata* observed in sugarcane by BPI-CPMD during the pest monitoring and validation at Balayan, Batangas.



DAMAGE CHARACTERISTICS



Red-striped soft scale insects are phloem-sucking pest feeding on plant sap of sugarcane by piercing and sucking the foliage.



These insects **secretes honeydew** unto the leaves and stem attracting ants. Honeydew also serves as media to sooty mold fungi characterized by black sooty appearance of the infested plant (Navasero et.al, 2023).



Severely infested sugarcane is characterized by yellowing, drooping of leaves, wilting and presence of heavy sooty mold growth coating the leaf surfaces.

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PEST MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Cultural Method

- **Manage residues** - Allow residue to decompose properly by thorough land preparation.
- **Use clean planting materials** - Strict movement of cuttings/planting materials from infested sugarcane areas to non-infested areas.
- **Weed management** - Keep weeds in check as it serves as alternate hosts of red-striped soft scale.

Biological Control

- **Use of entomopathogenic fungi** - Spray application of *Beauveria bassiana* as early as 2 months after planting to immediately suppress succeeding populations. (*Beauveria spp.* is being produced and provided (free-of-charge) by DA-BPI-CPMD Central Office Manila and Regional Crop Protection Centers (RCPCs) prior upon request.)

PEST MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Chemical Control

- **Application of insecticides** - Bakry et.al (2023), found insecticides with the active ingredient *Pyriproxyfen* is toxic against nymphal stages of *P. tenuivalvata* on sugarcane leaves.

Information-dissemination

- **Enhance the knowledge and skills** of sugarcane farmers/growers and stakeholders on proper pest identification, with emphasis on diagnosing the pest thru its injuries/damage and identifying proper management treatments to prevent further pest build up.


REFERENCES

RED-STRIPED SOFT SCALE PEST OF SUGARCANE IN SRA-LAREC, FLORIDABLANCA, PAMPANGA: FIELD VISIT REPORT CONDUCTED ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 (RESEARCH PAPER)

published by the National Crop Protection Center, College of Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños and Sugar Regulatory Administration - Luzon Agricultural Research and Extension Center
 You may read it at :

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/373992636_RED-STRIPED_SOFT_SCALE_PEST_OF_SUGARCANE_IN_SRA-LAREC_FLORIDABLANCA_PAMPANGA_FIELD_VISIT_REPORT_CONDUCTED_ON_SEPTMBER_5_2023

PLANT PEST REPORT RE: RED-STRIPED SOFT SCALE, REGIONAL CROP PROTECTION CENTER-CALABARZON DATED OCTOBER 11, 2023



RED-STRIPED SOFT SCALE PEST OF SUGARCANE IN SRA-LAREC, FLORIDABLANCA, PAMPANGA: FIELD VISIT REPORT CONDUCTED ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

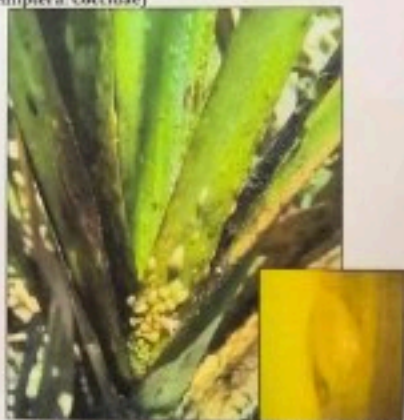
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Background Information

Sugarcane, *Saccharum officinarum*, is the main crop of the Sugar Regulatory Administration - Luzon Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SRA-LAREC), Floridablanca, Pampanga. Recently, infestation of undetermined insect pests in sugarcane in Pampanga, Batangas, and Tarlac and its damage alarmed the personnel and officials of the Center. To determine the identity of the infesting pest, personnel from the Philippine Space Agency (PHISA), SRA, and the National Crop Protection Center (NCPC) met virtually on August 25, 2023 via Microsoft Teams. Pest samples were brought to the NCPC for pest diagnosis. Field visits at SRA-LAREC, Floridablanca, Pampanga and Brgy. Salu, Porac, Pampanga by NCPC researchers and staff was done on September 5, 2023 for field ocular inspection, sample collection, and interview.

In June 2022, the initial observation of the insect pest took place in Bacolor, Pampanga. Another significant milestone occurred when the first observation was recorded within SRA-LAREC in February 2023. The month of July 2023 marked two noteworthy events. Firstly, there was the inaugural observation conducted within a greenhouse setting. Additionally, the first official report was filed in Balayan, Batangas. August 2023 was an active month, involving a field visit to infested areas in Balayan, Batangas, along with the submission of a specimen for diagnostic purposes. Furthermore, reports originating from various municipalities in Pampanga underscored the extent and significance of the situation. Other municipalities with reported incidence: Porac and Malinali of Pampanga; Cataca, Batangas; and Capas, Tarlac. This information was reported by Ms. Jerrimae Vicente, Science Research Specialist I of SRA-LAREC.

Growth stage	Tillering and grand-growth stage
Result of diagnosis	<p>RED-STRIPED SOFT SCALE (<i>Pulvinaria testivalvata</i>) (Hemiptera: Coccidae)</p>  <p>Figure 1. Red-striped soft scale which is an emerging pest of sugarcane in the Philippines. Feeding injury of this phloem sucking pest results in yellowing, drooping of infested leaves, wilting due to sap depletion and heavy sooty mold growth on honeydew excretions coating the leaf surfaces and its periphery.</p>
Actions taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provided technical assistance on identification of pest and management recommendations ➤ Provided entomopathogenic fungi, <i>B. bassiana</i> as initial intervention for <i>P. testivalvata</i>-infested sugarcane



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