NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY
NURSERY INSPECTION PROGRAM

VOL. VI

HORTICULTURAL PESTS OF REGULATORY CONCERN

Ceriferus (Japanese) wax scale

Name: *Ceroplastes ceriferus* (Fabricius)
Observed: Southern & Central New Jersey
On: Wide host range,
Most often: *Camellia* spp., *Ilex* spp., *Acer* spp.
Order: Hemiptera
Family: Coccidae

The Ceriferus (or Japanese) wax scale; *Ceroplastes ceriferus* (Fabricius) is not native to the state of New Jersey. The harboring or importation of the Ceriferus wax scale is prohibited according to New Jersey nursery regulation NJAC 2:20-3.1. Infestations continue to occur on nursery shipments imported from unclean sources.

Figure 1. Underside of mature adult female *C. ceriferus* (Fabricius)

Early symptoms of Ceriferus wax scale infestations include clumps of waxy deposits on young stems and the presence of sooty mold on the plants lower foliage. The most common plant damage caused by Ceriferus wax scale is stem dieback and an overall loss in vigor. On poplar, stem infestations can discolor the bark at the feeding site and producing irregular circular patches that later peel off. (Sivaramakrishnan, 1986). Ceriferus wax scales overwinter as mature adult females. They produce thousands of eggs that emerge as crawlers during a 2 to 3 week period during mid-June; 700-1200 GDDB50 (Adams).

There is usually 1 generation in New Jersey however young nymphs of a second generation may be present in late fall in the southernmost part of the state.

Figure 2. *C. ceriferus* (Fabricius) adults on *Ilex* sp.

The character that distinguishes Ceriferus wax scale from other wax scales is the forward-projecting horn that creates the appearance of a wizard's hat or dunce cap. This horn is obvious on young stages but does not always persist on adult females.

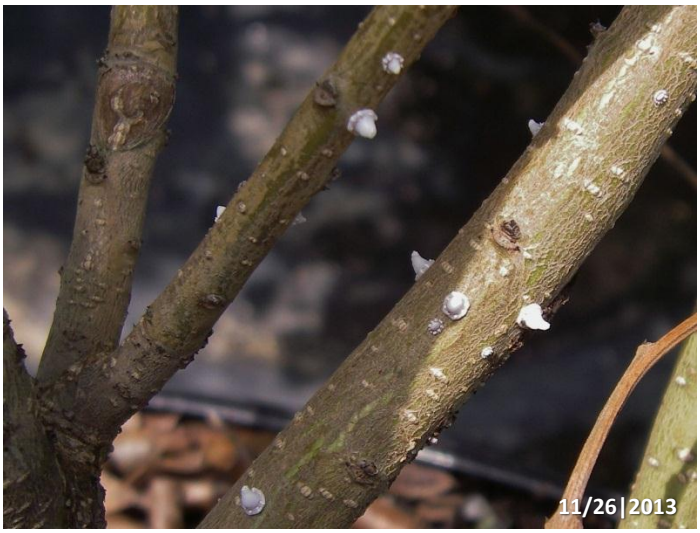

Figure 3. *C. ceriferus* (Fabricius) adults on *Ilex* sp.

Sivaramakrishnan VR, Ceroplastes ceriferus Anderson (Homoptera: Coccidae) - a new pest of poplars. Indian Journal of Forestry, 9(4):353-354., 1986.
N. Adams, *Using Growing Degree Days for Insect Management*. University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH.
W. Johnson & H. Lyon, *Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs*, 2nd ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1991.