



140

The Florida Entomologist 62(2)

June, 1974

NEW INFORMATION ON THE *RHIZOECUS* OF FLORIDA
INCLUDING DESCRIPTIONS OF FOUR NEW SPECIES¹

EDSON J. HAMBLETON

Cooperating Scientist,
Systematic Entomology Laboratory, IIBIII,
Fed. Res., Sci. Educ. Admin., USDA²

ABSTRACT

Four new species of *Rhizoecus* from Florida are described and illustrated: *keysensis*, *ladoniae*, *pseudocacticans* and *spicatus*. *Rhizoecus leucosomus* (Cockerell) and *R. mexicanus* (Hambleton) are reported for the first time from Florida. *Rhizoecus palestineae* (Hambleton), an introduced species, is redescribed and a lectotype is designated. A revised key is presented to the Florida species of *Rhizoecus*.

The addition of 6 mealybugs (4 of them new species) to the *Rhizoecus* fauna of Florida brings the total to 15 species for the State. This number includes *Rhizoecus leucosomus* (Cockerell) and *R. mexicanus* (Hambleton) here reported for the first time from Florida, and *R. palestineae* (Hambleton), an introduced species recorded by Dekle (1974). A revision of Hambleton's (1973) key is presented to facilitate identification of these species new to Florida.

Rhizoecus keysensis Hambleton, NEW SPECIES

Figs. 1-6

ADULT FEMALE: Oval elongate. Length, 0.87-1.35 mm; width, 0.38-0.67 mm. Antennae 6-segmented, rather stout, average length of segments in μ : I, 26; II, 16; III, 29; IV, 14; V, 18; VI, 40; apical segment less than twice as long as wide, with 3 elongate, moderately stout, bluntly tapered sensory setae and 1 spinelike sensory seta; segment V with 1 short, narrow sensory seta. Interantennal space equal to length of antennal segment VI. Eyes hemispherical, 5-6 μ wide. Rostrum elongate, 63 μ long, 40 μ wide; rostral loop extending to insertion of 2nd coxae. Cephalic plate irregularly triangulate, 30 μ long, 35 μ wide, with 2 vacuoles near center and 4 body setae on or near borders. Dorsal ostioles inconspicuous, weakly sclerotized.

Legs well developed. Length of segments of hind pair in μ : trochanter, 37;