

# Crape Myrtle Bark Scale Insect

## Common Name

Crape Myrtle Bark Scale; CMBS

## Scientific Name

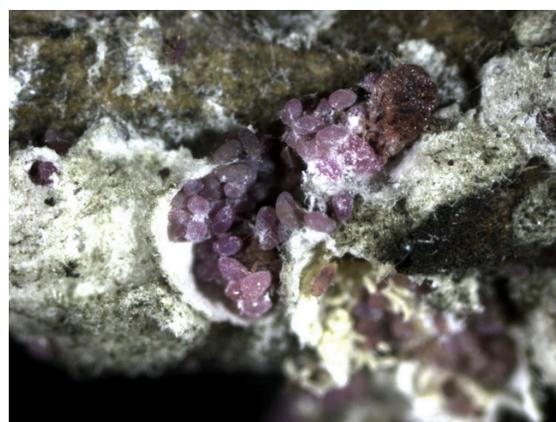
*Acanthococcus lagerstroemia*

## Host Plants

- Crape Myrtle (preferred)
- American Beauty berry
- Kalm's St. John's Wort
- Apple
- Fig
- Persimmon
- Pomegranate



Figure 1: Jill Pollock, Diagnostician, University of Delaware



(Figure 3) Photo Credit: Jill Pollock, Diagnostician, University of Delaware



(Figure 2) Photo Credit: Tracy Wootten, CEA, University of Delaware

## Signs

- White, woolly adults (figure 1, 2) with pink to purple eggs underneath (Figure 3) can be seen in late spring.
- The first generation was observed in late May through early June using a hand lens or viewing double-sided tape under a dissecting scope at 631 - 803 GDD and a 2nd in early August around 2,233 - 2357 GDD (Figure 4).

## Symptoms

- Honeydew, a sugary excrement, can be seen on bark and leaves
- Sooty mold can follow honeydew and turn bark and leaves black and gray (Figure 2). It is not a pathogen but will discolor plants
- Crape myrtle has reduced flower size and vigor under CMBS pressure compared to healthy crape myrtle



(Figure 4) Photo Credit: Jill Pollock, Diagnostician, University of Delaware

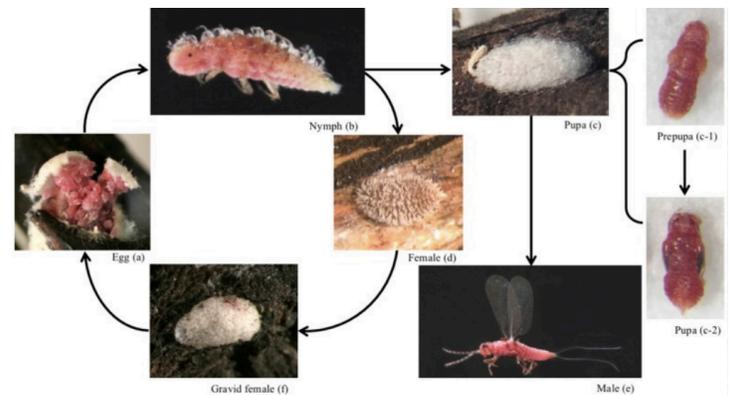
## Management

- When crawlers are active, contact insecticides and growth regulators are effective.
- Soil-drench systemic insecticides are also effective. Applications should be applied early, generally mid-April.

For specific recommendations and questions regarding application timing, contact your local cooperative extension office.

## Biology and Life Cycle

Crape myrtle bark scale begins its life cycle as tiny, pink to purple colored crawlers (<mm), which subsequently produce a fuzzy white waxy cover. Females remain sessile under the cover, whereas males pupate and leave their covers as a tiny, pink, gnat-like insect with wings (Figure 5) to mate before dying. Females oviposit 100-300 eggs underneath their waxy cover before dying. The first generation of eggs hatch from late May to early July (between 631-803 GDD in Georgetown, Delaware). We are studying this pest to determine how many generations there are and how it overwinters in the Mid-Atlantic.



(Figure 5) Seen in: *Crape Myrtle Bark Scale: A New Threat for Crape Myrtles, a Popular Landscape Plant in the U.S.* Wang and Díaz et al, Louisiana State University