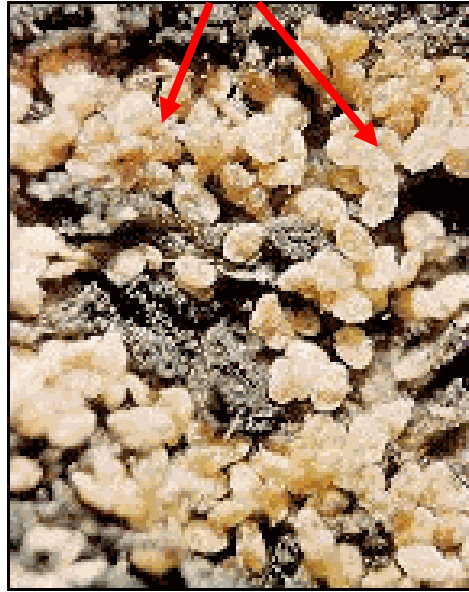


crawler



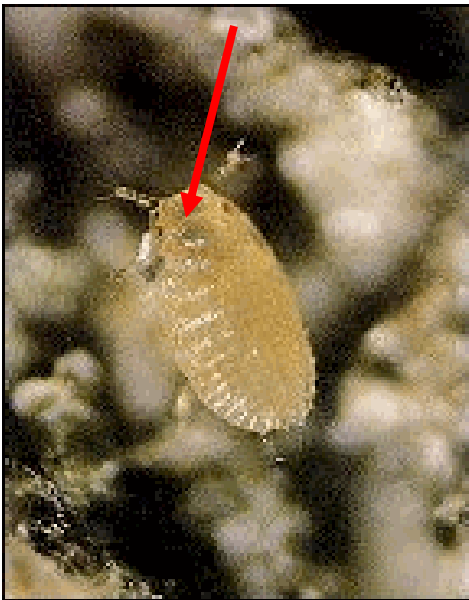
USFS - Forestry Invitational

eggs



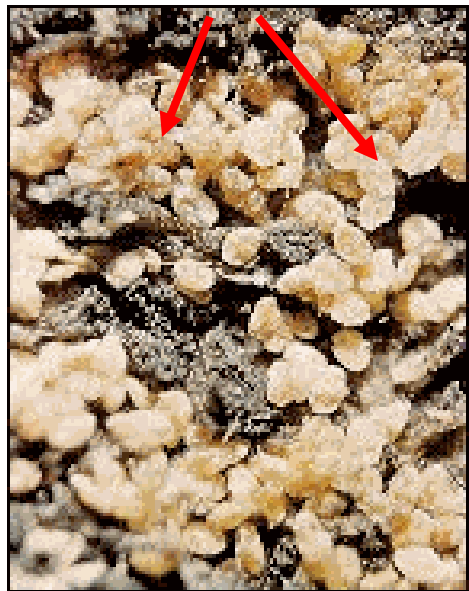
USFS - Forestry Invitational

crawler



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eggs



USFS - Forestry Invitational

beech scale

Cryptococcus fagisuga (Lindinger)

Beech scale is a foreign pest discovered for the first time in North America in 1890 in Nova Scotia. It is now found from Nova Scotia westward to eastern Quebec southwestward to northern Pennsylvania and east to New Jersey. Scattered infestations have been discovered in Ontario, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. Beech scale alone does not kill a tree but when in association with the fungus *Nectria coccinea* the tree dies. The combination of scale and fungus has resulted in the deaths of numerous beech trees in forests and landscape plantings.

Beech scales are found on the bark of beech trees usually on the tree trunks. The pale yellow body of the individual female scale appears as a somewhat flattened sphere measuring less than 1/16 inch in diameter. The top side of the scale is covered with short white wool-like threads. Beech scales are all females.

The scale begins to produce yellow eggs in early July. The eggs hatch about 4 weeks later. After hatching the tiny scale nymphs or "crawlers" crawl over the bark surface. During this period strong winds often dislodge some of the scales and they can be blown onto beech trees in other areas. After finding a suitable location on the tree bark the scale will insert its mouth parts into the bark tissues and begin feeding. It then sheds its skin at which time it also loses its legs and thereafter remains at that location the rest of its life.

Since the scales feed together in huge numbers, the bark of scale infested trees appears as if it was covered with white wool. After several years as the scale population continues to increase the leaves of infested trees become stunted and the foliage sparse. In late summer the foliage becomes yellowish but remains on the tree. Such trees usually do not survive another year.

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