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First report of a persistent pest in Kangra tea, Pulvinaria floccifera (Westwood, 1870) and its phenology

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Abstract: Pulvinaria floccifera (Westwood), commonly called as cottony camellia scale is reported to infest 'Kangra tea' for the first time. The phenological detail of the scale insect was reported in the paper. It was noted that this scale insect completes one generation in the field and overwinters as 2nd nymphal stage. Number of eggs ranged from 236-627 eggs per sac. While the incubation time lasted for 12-16 days and the oviposition period ranged upto 5-7 days per female. Data showed the growth phase for first, second and third nymphal stage for 12, 18 and 16 days in field conditions, whereas under controlled conditions it was 15, 17 and 19 days. This study indicated that cottony camellia scale reproduced by parthenogenesis as no males were recorded during this work.

Key words: Cottony camellia scale, tea, life cycle.