

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Oleander aphid

Scientific Name: *Aphis nerii*

Order and Family: Hemiptera, Aphididae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		Same as adult
Adult	1.5-2.6 mm	Yellow body with black legs and black cornicles
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing-sucking mouthparts. Feeds on plant juices.

Host plant/s: Main host plants are in the families Asclepiadaceae (milkweed) and Apocynaceae (Oleander). They can also be found on other families such as Compositae, Convolvulaceae, and Euphorbiaceae. Aphids that feed on milkweed and oleander can sequester the chemical compounds in the plant and use them for defense.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Adults and nymphs feed on fresh, new terminal growth. Severe infestations can stunt growth but most damage is aesthetic from excessive honeydew production and the subsequent sooty mold that develops. Oleander aphids can also transmit a multitude of plant viruses.

References:

McAuslane, H. J. (2017). Oleander aphid. *Featured Creatures*. University of Florida.

Birnbaum, S. S. L., & Abbot, P. (2018). Insect adaptations towards plant toxins in milkweed-herbivore systems-a review. *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata*. 166: 357-366.