

Life history of yam scale, *Gonaspidotus hartii* Cockerell (Hemiptera:Diaspididae)

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ABSTRACT

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Yam scale, *Gonaspidotus hartii* Cockerell, is one of the most important insect pests attacking stored yam in the Philippines. In this study, *G. hartii* was investigated on greater yam *Dioscorea alata* (var Kinampay). The insect underwent three developmental stages: egg, nymph and adult. The total developmental period from egg to adult stage lasted 53-62 (58.77) days for the male and 58-66 (61.74) days for the female. Each female laid 9-196 (89.85) eggs during its entire oviposition period of 3-7 days with 95-100 percent hatchability. A male to female ratio of 1:4.43 was recorded. Adult male lived shorter (1-4 days) than the female (14-22) days.

Keywords: yam scale insect, *Gonaspidotus hartii* Cockerell, life history