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THE GUM-TREE SCALE AND ITS CONTROL.

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ONE of the most destructive insects to eucalypts is the gum-tree scale or "blight" (*Eriococcus coriaceus* Mask.). It does not confine its attention to any one species but attacks practically all, although some, such as the blue-gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), suffer more extensively than others.

An examination of a branch or twig from a badly infested tree (Fig. 1) reveals a number of more or less closely packed grain-like bodies attached to the bark. Each of these is reddish-brown, tawny, or sometimes white, and consists of a globular sac of felted material with a circular opening at the posterior end, the whole measuring about $\frac{3}{25}$ in. in length (Fig. 2). Within this sac the female insect lies; the latter is somewhat flattened, oval in outline, blood-red in colour, and possesses six well-developed legs, but no wings. From the under-side of the head a delicate hair-like proboscis projects, being thrust through an opening on the under-side of the enclosing sac towards the anterior end, and thence into the bark of the tree. The insect feeds upon the plant-juices in this way, and in heavily infested cases the drain is so severe that the tree rapidly wilts and eventually may be killed.