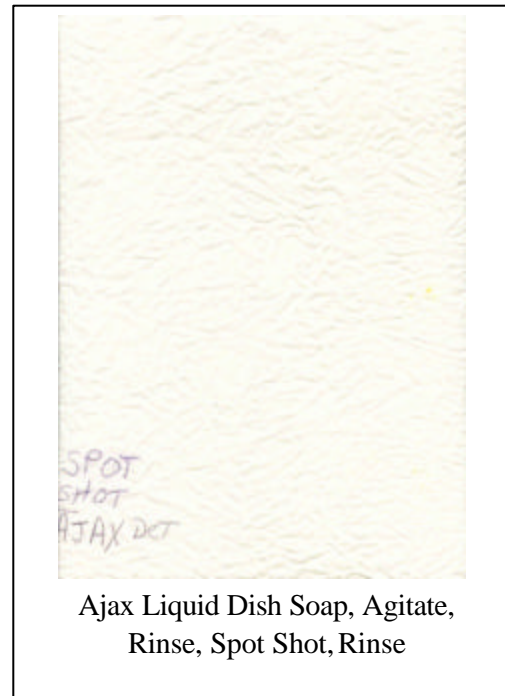
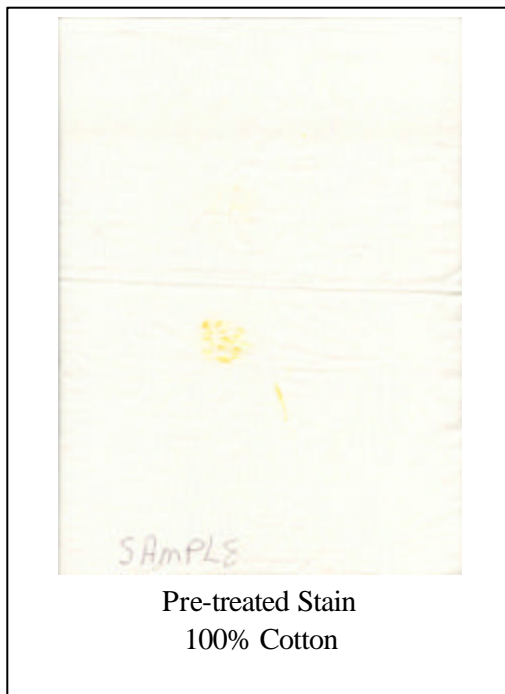


Melaleuca Snout Beetle (*Oxyops vitiosa*) Larvae Secretion Removal By Ken Gioeli & Diane Franzen¹

Adults and larvae of the melaleuca snout beetle feed on young foliage produced on both saplings and older, mature trees. The larvae are the most damaging life stage, feeding on one side of a melaleuca leaf through to the cuticle on the opposite side, which results in a window-like feeding scar. This damage may persist for months, ultimately resulting in leaf drop.

Melaleuca snout beetle larvae are able to extract compounds from young melaleuca leaves and exude them onto their bodies. These yellowish compounds may deter fire ant predation on the *Oxyops* larvae. When working in melaleuca stands containing these larvae, it is difficult to avoid staining your clothes with this secretion. Workers should wear old clothing they don't mind getting stained.

A study was undertaken to determine the best way to remove these larvae stains from clothes. Clothes should be treated as soon as possible with Ajax Dish Soap, agitate and rinse. Repeat if necessary. If the stains persist, try using Spot Shot stain remover. This should remove most, if not all, of the stain.



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