Mini data sheet on *Aleurodicus dispersus*

Added in 2000 – Deleted in 2006

Reasons for deletion:
Aleurodicus dispersus has been included in EPPO Alert List for more than 3 years and during this period no particular international action was requested by the EPPO member countries. In 2006, it was therefore considered that sufficient alert has been given and the pest was deleted from the Alert List.

Aleurodicus dispersus (Homoptera: Aleyrodidae) - Spiralling whitefly

Why	The NPPO of UK suggested that *Aleurodicus dispersus* could be added to the EPPO Alert List.
Where	*A. dispersus* originates from the tropical Americas. It occurs in many countries in Central and South America and in the Caribbean. It has also occurred in the Canary Islands since 1963. More recently, it has been reported from Asia and Africa. **EPPO region:** Portugal (Madeira), Spain (Canary Islands: Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote). **Asia:** Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India (Andra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu), Indonesia (Java, Sumatra), Laos, Malaysia (peninsular, Sabah, Sarawak), Maldives, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam. **Africa:** Benin, Congo, Mauritius, Nigeria, Togo. **North America:** USA (Florida, Hawaii). **South America:** Brazil (Bahia), Peru, Venezuela. **Caribbean and Central America:** Bahamas, Barbados, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Martinique, Panama, Puerto Rico. **Oceania:** American Samoa, Australia (few cases found in Queensland, under quarantine), Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Guam, Micronesia, Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, Papua New Guinea
On which plants	*A. dispersus* is a highly polyphagous species. Its wide host range includes many vegetable, ornamental and fruit crops, as well as numerous trees and shrubs. Among its host plants, the following crops can be mentioned: *Capsicum*, *Citrus*, *Cocos nucifera* (coconut), *Euphorbia pulcherrima* (poinsettia), *Glycine max* (soybean), *Hibiscus*, *Lycopersicon esculentum* (tomato), *Mangifera indica* (mango), *Musa* (banana), *Persea americana* (avocado), *Prunus* spp., *Psidium guajava* (guava), *Solanum melongena* (aubergine), etc.
Damage	Immature and adult stages of *A. dispersus* cause direct feeding damage by sucking plant sap, which can cause premature leaf fall. Indirect damage is due to the heavy production of honeydew and white, waxy material produced by the insect. Sooty mould develops on honeydew and decreases phytosynthetic activity. Plants are also disfigured and may be unmarketable. In places where is occurs, *A. dispersus* is generally considered as a serious pest, causing crop losses. Virus transmission is apparently not known.
Dissemination	Natural dispersal can be ensured by flying adults. Over long distances, the pest has already showed its potential for spread, being introduced into many different parts of the world. Movements of infested plants or fruits can ensure long distance dissemination.
Pathway	Plants for planting, vegetables and fruits, cut flowers? from countries where *A. dispersus* occurs.
Possible risks	*A. dispersus* is a pest of tropical and sub-tropical crops, and it appears unlikely that it could establish outdoors in most parts of the EPPO region. However, it may present a risk for the warmest parts of southern Europe, where many of its host plants are grown (citrus, avocado, palms, tomato, aubergine etc.). It may also present a risk for ornamentals or vegetable crops grown under glasshouse

conditions. Chemical and biological control (release of parasitoids) methods are available, but the pest is apparently difficult to control.

Source(s)

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INTERNET
DPI Note (Department of Primary Industries Queensland) - Spiralling whitefly: threat to Australia by Trevor Lambkin
http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/dpinotes/health/plantpests/aph98008.html

EPPO RS 2000/061, 2000/172, 2000/173, 2001/081, 2001/142, 2002/005

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