Mini data sheet on *Trialeurodes ricini*

Added in 2000 – Deleted in 2006

Reasons for deletion:
A PRA carried out in the UK concluded that the risk presented by *Trialeurodes ricini* for the EPPO region was not significant. In 2006, it was therefore removed from the EPPO Alert List.

Trialeurodes ricini (Homoptera: Aleyrodidae) - Castor whitefly

Why	The NPPO of UK suggested that *Trialeurodes ricini* (synonym *T. rara*) could be added to the EPPO Alert List. This pest was recently introduced into Egypt. It was found there for the first time in September 1997 on *Ricinus communis* in Qalyubiya Governorate, and rapidly became widespread. It has been intercepted twice by UK on unspecified leaves from Cameroon and Nigeria (possibly *Amaranthus* leaves).
Where	**EPPO region**: Egypt, Israel, Spain (Canary Islands). **Asia**: Brunei Darussalam, Hong Kong, India (Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh), Iran, Iraq, Malaysia (peninsular), Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Thailand. **Africa**: Cameroon (unconfirmed), Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda.
On which plants	*T. ricini* is a polyphagous species. Its preferred hosts are: *Ricinus communis* (castor bean), *Dolichos lablab*, *Gossypium hirsutum* (cotton). But it can also feed on *Cucurbita maxima* (pumkin), *Ipomoea batatas* (sweet potato), *Solanum melongena* (aubergine), *Phaseolus vulgaris* (bean), *Lycopersicon esculentum* (tomato), *Solanum tuberosum* (potato), *Cucurbita pepo* (melon), *Cumumis sativa* (cucumber), etc.
Damage	Adults and immature stages of *T. ricini* suck sap from the lower surface of the leaves which then wither and turn brown. Secretion of honeydew results in growth of sooty moulds. In Egypt, *T. ricini* has been reported as a vector of *Tomato yellow leaf curl begomovirus*.
Dissemination	Natural dispersal is ensured by flying adults. Movements of infested plants or fruits can ensure long distance dissemination.
Pathway	Infected plants for planting, vegetables and fruits from countries where *T. ricini* occurs.
Possible risks	*T. ricini* is a tropical and sub-tropical pest (most favourable temperatures appear to be 25 to 30 °C), and it appears unlikely that it could establish outdoors in most parts of the EPPO region. However, it may present a risk for southern Europe, where many of its host plants are grown (cotton, cucurbits, tomato, aubergine, etc.). It may also present a risk for vegetable crops grown under glasshouse conditions. An additional concern is the transmission of *Tomato yellow leaf curl begomovirus*. Chemical and biological control (release of parasitoids, e.g. *Encarsia formosa*) methods are available, but the pest is difficult to control.
Source(s)	NPPO of UK, 2000-01, Summary PRA by Dr A. MacLeod

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