



A new species of *Aleuroclava* Singh (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae) from Iran

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Abstract

A new whitefly species, *Aleuroclava kharazii* Manzari & Shahbazvar **sp. nov.**, is described and illustrated here from several host plant species belonging to Apocynaceae and Rosaceae in Iran. Its taxonomic affinities are briefly discussed.

Key words. *Aleuroclava*, Aleyrodidae, whiteflies, Iran

Introduction

The whitefly genus *Aleuroclava* was proposed by Singh (1931) to accommodate specimens of a single whitefly species collected on three host plant species in Lahore, India. One year later, Takahashi (1932) erected *Aleurotuberculatus* mentioning that it was closely allied to *Aleuroclava* and may be a synonym of it. In the same paper, he established *Taiwanaleyrodes* Takahashi and stated "allied to *Aleurotuberculatus* Takah." (Takahashi, 1932). *Aleuroclava* remained monobasic for many years but the genera *Aleurotuberculatus* and *Taiwanaleyrodes* were both later synonymized with *Aleuroclava*, by Martin (1999) and Manzari & Quicke (2006), respectively. The genus *Martiniella*, proposed by Jesudasan & David (1990), was also considered a junior synonym of *Aleuroclava* by Martin (1999). Sundararaj & Dubey (2004) believed *Martiniella* to be a valid genus based upon the differentiated ["jointed" or "articulated"] type of setae but this action was not followed by other authors (Manzari & Quicke, 2006; Martin & Mound, 2007). Furthermore, two other genera, viz. *Japaneyrodes* Zahrádník and *Hindaleyrodes* Meganathan & David were synonymized with *Aleuroclava* (Mound & Halsey, 1978; Martin & Mound, 2007).

Due to the lack of a suite of morphological characters to determine the generic boundary, *Aleuroclava* can be considered as a difficult genus with a complex history of species included/excluded. It is the largest genus and currently includes more than 120 species (Martin & Mound, 2007). *Aleuroclava* is related to *Minutaleyrodes* Jesudasan & David; however, according to Jesudasan & David (1990) and Martin (1999), *Dumbletoniella* Jesudasan & David is also a close ally. It is quite likely that *Minutaleyrodes* is congeneric with *Aleuroclava* (Manzari & Quicke, 2006).

Aleuroclava is an Old World genus and occurs predominantly in the Oriental and Austro-Oriental regions, as well as in Palearctic eastern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (Martin, 1999). Field-collected material by the first author from Guilan province, Iran, revealed the presence of an undescribed species of *Aleuroclava*. In this study, the new species is described and illustrated and information on the distribution and host plants are provided.

Material and methods

Field-collected puparia were slide-mounted using the protocol described by Martin (1987, 1999) and Canada