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Studies on the Indian species of *Aleuroplatus* (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae), with designation of a neotype puparium for *Aleurodes alcocki* Peal

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Abstract

A neotype is designated for *Aleurodes alcocki* Peal, which is currently in the genus *Aleuroplatus*, and this species is distinguished from *Aleuroplatus pectiniferus* Quaintance & Baker. *Aleuroplatus cinnamomi* Jesudasan & David is recalled from synonymy with *A. pectiniferus* as a valid species. A key to puparia of the Indian *Aleuroplatus* species is given.

Key words: *Aleuroplatus*, *Aleurodes alcocki*, Aleyrodidae, Hemiptera

Introduction

Aleuroplatus, like several other whitefly genera, comprises a large number of species, and is in need of revision. Puparia of species in this genus are very similar in structure, and are often covered with transparent gelatinous wax along with a waxy marginal fringe. Studies on this genus in Sri Lanka (David, 1993), and also in Australia (Martin, 1999), have indicated relationships to the Indian fauna. The objective of this paper is to clarify the identity of some Indian species, and particularly to designate a neotype for *Aleurodes alcocki*, a species described long ago. Recorded host plants of all *Aleuroplatus* species known from India are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Host plants of *Aleuroplatus* species known from India. *whitefly and host plants included from Evans (2007); **host plants indicated from Martin & Lau (2011).

Whitefly species	Host plant family	Host plant species
A. alcocki	Annonaceae	*Annona* sp.*
		Polyalthia longifolia
		Polyalthia pendula
	Combretaceae	*Terminalia beleirica**
	Euphorbiaceae	*Cleistanthus collinus**
	Fabaceae	*Bauhinia* sp.*
		*Tamarindus indicus**
	Flacourtiaceae	*Casearia esculenta**
	Lauraceae	*Cinnamomum* sp.*
	Malvaceae	*Grewia* sp.
	Moraceae	*Ficus bengalensis*
		Ficus indica
		Ficus religiosa
		Morus alba
	Myrtaceae	*Syzygium* sp.*

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