

FIRST RECORD OF *BEMISIA AFER* (HOMOPTERA : ALEYRODIDAE) ON *CITRUS AURANTIUM* VAR. *AMARA* AT BEHIRA, EGYPT

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Abstract

The sycamore whitefly, *Bemisia afer* (Priesner and Hosny) (Homoptera: Aleyrodidae) one of the most important whitefly in Egypt. During 2007, citrus leaves heavily infested by whitefly species in Rashid, Behira were collected. Results indicated *Citrus aurantium* var. *amara* recorded as a new host plant of *B. afer* in Behira. This is considered as a new record for the first time in Egypt.

INTRODUCTION

The sycamore whitefly, *Bemisia afer* (Priesner and Hosny) (Homoptera: Aleyrodidae) is considered as one of the most important whitefly pests of the world (Evans, 2007). Priesner and Hosny (1934) described and recorded the pupal cases of *Bemisia afer* (Priesner and Hosny) on *Lawsonia alba* and *Ficus sycmorus* for the first time in Egypt. Habib and Farag (1970) collected *B. afer* from *Citrus lemonia* April, 1964 at Shubra and from *C. lemonia*, August 1964 at El-Minia, Egypt.

It attacks 50 host plants in 14 countries all over the world (Bink-Moenen, 1983 and Mound and Halsey, 1978). In Egypt, it attacks 13 host plants distributed in 10 locations (Abd-Rabou, 1998). Recently, this whitefly species caused a lot of damage to different economic plants in USA (Anderson *et al.*, 2001.).

This species is characterized by a median part of abdominal segment 7 apparently shorter than that of segment 6. Caudal ridges and furrow distinct. Tracheal pore areas sometimes differentiated from margin as a comb. First abdominal setae absent. Vasiform orifice posteriorly with some transverse ridges, antennae with basal spines in *B. afer*. While vasiform orifice posteriorly with tubercles, antennae without basal spines in *B. tabaci* (Abd-Rabou, 1996 and 1997). The aim of this work is to record and identify the new host plants of *B. afer* in Egypt.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During 2007, collected citrus leaves heavily infested by whitefly in Rashid, Behira were transferred to the laboratory for identification. Identification followed mounting the specimens through the method of Abd-Rabou (2001).

Identification started by the key of the economic important whitefly pests of the world by Martin (1987) followed by the key of egyptian species of whiteflies (Abd-Rabou, 1997).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results indicated that the collected species were the sycamore whitefly, *B. afer*. This is the first record for this pest on *Citrus aurantium* var. *amara* as a new host plant of *B. afer* in Egypt. Recently, Evans, 2007 recorded the host plants of all whitefly species including *B. afer* all over the world.

Abd-Rabou (1998) made a list of 13 host plants associated with *B. afer*. *Citrus* species as a host plant were not included in this list. Further investigations in detail will be conducted on this pest soon.

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أول تسجيل لذبابة الجميز البيضاء على النارج في مصر

شعبان عبدربه ، نها حسين أحمد

معهد بحوث وقاية النباتات - مركز البحوث الزراعية - الدقي - جيزة

يتضمن هذا العمل تجميع عينات من النارج مصابة بالذباب الأبيض في محافظة البحيرة خلال ٢٠٠٧ وتم تحضير عينات منها لتعريفها بأستخدام المفاتيح التصنيفية المتخصصة لتعريف الذباب الأبيض. أتضح من نتائج التعريف أن هذه الأفة هي ذبابة الجميز البيضاء و يعتبر هذا العمل تسجيلًا جديدًا لذبابة الجميز البيضاء على النارج في مصر.