

- Short Reports
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Occurrence of exotic whitefly, *Paraleyrodes minei* Iaccarino (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae) and other whitefly species on fruit crops in Maharashtra, India

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Abstract

Severe incidence of an exotic whitefly species *Paraleyrodes minei* Iaccarino (Homoptera: Aleyrodidae) was noticed in the Pune region of Maharashtra state, India, on the fruit trees guava (*Psidium guajava* L.), jamoon (*Syzygium cumini* L.), mango (*Mangifera indica* L.), chiku (*Manilkara zapota* L.), custard apple (*Annona squamosa* L.), citrus (*Citrus* spp.), banana (*Musa* spp.) and coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.). Additional host plants

of *P. minei* are neem (*Azadirachta indica* L.), Asoka (*Saraca asoca* (Roxb.) and temple tree (*Plumeria alba* L.). The identity of the pest was established based on sequences of the mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase 1 (mtCO-I) region amplified from genomic DNA of single whitefly. The incidence of *P. minei* was 100% on guava, jamoon, and custard apple; wherein under the surface of the infested leaves looks completely white with cottony wax. In the case of, coconut, guava, chiku, and banana, *P. minei* was co-colonising along with the rugose spiralling whitefly (*Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* Martin). Star gooseberry (*Phyllanthus acidus* L., new host record) plants were severely infested with less frequently collected whitefly, *Bemisia bryniae* (Singh). Pomegranate (*Punica granatum* L.) was infested by whitefly *Siphoninus phillyreae* (Haliday). The study highlights the need for continuous monitoring of invasive whitefly species population on important fruit crops for timely application of management practices to prevent losses of potential yield.

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Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

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Contributions

KC: conceptualization, survey, and sample collection:
AV: performed molecular work and data analysis: AKD:
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Ethics declarations

Conflict of interests

The authors report no competing interests.

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