New Pest and Natural Enemies Record:

**New Record for Four Additional Whiteflies Species from Yemen.** 2007. N.M.M. Abdullah* and Jon Martin*. (1) Department of Plant Protection, Sana’a University, Sana’a, P.O.Box 13609 (Main Post Office), Yemen, Email: abd_nasher@yahoo.co.in; (2) Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK, Email: j.martin@nhm.ac.uk. Received: December 30, 2006; Accepted: January 7, 2007. Arab J. Pl. Prot. 25: 33-34.

The varied topographic features and the variable climatic conditions of Yemen are among the major factors effecting the diversification of insect fauna. More than 4000 species of insects were recorded in the latest check list for insect fauna of Yemen (1), but still relatively little is known. More than 1500 species of whiteflies have hitherto been recorded from Yemen: *Aleurocanthus woglumi* (Ashby), *Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius), and *Dialeurodes citri* (Ashmead) (1). In this study we report the identification of four additional whitefly species from Yemen, which can be summarized as follows:

- **Aleurocanthus woglumi** (Priesner & Hosny) were first recorded in 2006 from Yemen.
- **Dialeurodes citri** (Ashmead) and **Aleurocanthus woglumi** (Ashby) were first recorded in 2007.
- **Bemisia tabaci** (Gennadius) was first recorded in 2006.
- **Dialeurodes citri** (Ashmead) was first recorded in 2007.

*New Pest and Natural Enemies Record*:

**Wheat Root Rot Disease**

Chapters:

1. "New Pest and Natural Enemies Record" by N.M.M. Abdullah and Jon Martin.
2. "Wheat Root Rot Disease" by Abdulla and Jon Martin.

**New Pest and Natural Enemies Record**

From Yemen, 2007. N.M.M. Abdullah* and Jon Martin*. (1) Department of Plant Protection, Sana’a University, Sana’a, P.O.Box 13609 (Main Post Office), Yemen, Email: abd_nasher@yahoo.co.in; (2) Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK, Email: j.martin@nhm.ac.uk. Received: December 30, 2006; Accepted: January 7, 2007. Arab J. Pl. Prot. 25: 33-34.

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1. **Aleurocanthus woglumi** (Priesner & Hosny): first recorded in 2006 from Yemen.
3. **Bemisia tabaci** (Gennadius): first recorded in 2006.

**Wheat Root Rot Disease**

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2. "Wheat Root Rot Disease" by Abdulla and Jon Martin.
Acaudaleyrodes rachipora (Singh) was found to be infesting Pergularia damia at the Agriculture Research Authority Farm, Ousaifirah, Taiz, 1500m above sea level. Pupae and adults specimens were collected on 22 August, 2004. A. rachipora was described for the first time in 1931 by Singh in India on Cassia fistula. It is widely distributed in India, Pakistan, Cyprus, Turkey, Africa, the Middle East and Iran. Perusal of the literature reveals that A. rachipora is a highly polyphagous insect (4). In India alone it has been found reproducing on 48 host plants, representing 16 families (2).

Sugarcane whitefly, Neomaskellia bergii (Signoret), was found infesting millet plants (Pennisetum glaucum), at the Agricultural Farm of the Faculty of Agriculture, Sana’a University, Sana’a, (2200m over sea level). Specimens were collected on 14 August, 2004. It was described for the first time by Signoret in 1868, also on sugarcane. It is a very common pest of grasses in warmer parts of the world. It is widely distributed in India and Pakistan. If Yemen is considered as being Palaearctic, then this is the first record for this geographical region. However, many researchers call Yemen Afrotropical, in which case this species is known from all over that region. N. bergii is among those whiteflies reported to exhibit parental care for their progeny (3).

Trialeurodes ricini (Misra) was found infesting castor plant, Ricinus communis L. at the Agricultural Farm of the Faculty of Agriculture, Sana’a University, Sana’a. Specimens were collected on 25 June 2006. It was described for the first time by Misra in 1924 on the same plant in India. It has been reported from Occupied Palestine, Egypt, Saudia Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Malaysia and Nigeria. The importance of this pest is increasing owing to the existence of several different biotypes and it is a vector of plant viruses including Tomato yellow leaf curl virus TYLCV.

Singhiella elbaensis (Priesner & Hosny) was collected by Hugh Scott in 23 December, 1937 from a fig tree (Ficus sp.) in Taiz. (1500 meters above sea level). The specimens were found by the second author, among unidentified scale insect material at the Natural History Museum in London, in an envelope sent to the museum by Scott. This species was originally described in 1934 as Dialeurodes elbaensis by Priesner & Hosny, from Gebel Elba in Egypt. Perusal of the literature revealed that this species has not been recorded from Yemen so far.

In conclusion, the above four species recorded for the first time need to be investigated for their distribution on different hosts in different areas in the country. It is well known that acacia trees form an important part of the flora of Yemen. A. rachipora is known to damage acacia trees (5). Similarly, the importance of this pest should be considered on Prosopis trees, which are widely distributed in the country and a host for this pest (6).

References


