

## The identity of *Paraleyrodes perseae* (Quaintance) (Sternorrhyncha: Aleyrodidae), a potential pest of fruit trees in the United States and beyond

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### Abstract

*Paraleyrodes perseae* (Quaintance) is redefined, with both puparial and male identification characters illustrated, in order to overcome confusion caused by conflicting earlier accounts of this species. A lectotype is designated. The pest potential of this species is briefly discussed, in relation to invasive populations of other *Paraleyrodes* species.

**Key words:** whiteflies, pests, *Paraleyrodes perseae*, redefinition, invasive potential, lectotype

### Introduction

Over the past few years, extensive field work in Central America has resulted in the collection of many samples of whiteflies (Aleyrodidae), and the accumulation of much observational field data. These studies culminated in the publication of an account of whiteflies in Belize (Martin, 2004, 2005), the most detailed such account of this group of insects in Central America to date. A sample collected from avocado in Nicaragua has finally allowed clarification of the identity of one particular species, *Paraleyrodes perseae* (Quaintance), and this is the subject of this paper.

*Paraleyrodes* is a whitefly genus native to the Neotropical Region. It is a member of the smaller of the two whitefly subfamilies, the Aleurodicinae, that includes about 120 described species. *Paraleyrodes* currently accommodates 17 described species, but reference collections contain specimens of further undescribed species.

Females of *Paraleyrodes* species usually secrete a great deal of mealy wax around them whilst ovipositing. As a result, the common name “nesting whitefly” has been used for *P. minei* Iaccarino, although this is an appropriate term for all members of the genus.