

## **A new species of *Aleurocanthus* Quaintance & Baker (Homoptera: Aleyrodidae) from *Areca catechu* in India, with comments on the status of *Aleurodes nubilans* Buckton**

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### **Abstract**

A new species of whitefly, *Aleurocanthus arecae* sp. nov., collected from arecanut (*Areca catechu*) in Karnataka state in India, is described and illustrated. The status of *Aleurodes nubilans* Buckton is discussed and considered a *nomen dubium*.

**Key words:** Aleyrodidae, *Aleurocanthus arecae*, *Aleurodes nubilans*

### **Introduction**

The discovery of a species of *Aleurocanthus* on arecanut palm (*Areca catechu*) in Karnataka State, India, led us to look for previous records of whiteflies on this plant. Mound and Halsey (1978) list only *Aleurocanthus nubilans* (Buckton) from arecanut palm quoting Kirkaldy (1907) as the source of the record. This species was described by Buckton (1900) as *Aleurodes nubilans*, from material collected from betel (*Piper betle*) leaves in West Bengal and was subsequently placed in *Aleurocanthus* by Quaintance & Baker (1914). Kirkaldy (1907) appears to have mis-quoted *Areca catechu* as the sole known host plant, although quoting Buckton's locality data for the material from betel. As discussed below, the species from Karnataka is not only clearly different from the one described by Buckton, it apparently represents an undescribed species that is therefore described here as new.