

A new species of *Acaudaleyrodes* Takahashi (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae) from Iran, with a key to the species of the genus

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Abstract

Acaudaleyrodes ebeni sp. nov. is described and illustrated here from *Ebenus stellata* (Fabaceae: Papilionoideae) an endemic shrub species in Iran. Its taxonomic affinities are discussed and an identification guide to described species of the genus *Acaudaleyrodes* Takahashi is presented.

Key words. *Acaudaleyrodes*, Aleyrodidae, whiteflies, Iran, *Ebenus stellata*

Introduction

The whitefly genus *Acaudaleyrodes* was established by Takahashi (1951) to accommodate specimens collected on “Mpanjakabentany” (Family ?Hernandiaceae) in Madagascar. Among the aleyrodid genera, *Acaudaleyrodes* is a relatively easy genus to define accurately, mostly because the scutellate vasiform orifice has a short transversely rectangular operculum but the remainder of the orifice is not occupied by the lingula, which is tiny. According to Takahashi (1951), the genus is related to *Aleurotrachelus* Quaintance & Baker, however, the senior author believes that *Mixaleyrodes* Takahashi is also a close ally. *Acaudaleyrodes* is a small genus and prior to this study the described species of the genus comprised four species, viz. *Acaudaleyrodes africana* (Dozier), *A. pauliani* Takahashi (the type-species), *A. rachipora* (Singh) and *A. tuberculata* Bink-Moenen (Mound & Halsey, 1978; Bink-Moenen, 1983; Jesudasan & David, 1991).

Field-collected material by the second author from different parts of Fars province revealed the presence of an undescribed species of *Acaudaleyrodes* colonizing *Ebenus stellata* (Fabaceae: Papilionoideae). The host plant, which is a desert plant with needle-like leaves, is native to western Asia and distributed through Afghanistan, the Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Pakistan (temperate and tropical regions) (Wiersema & León, 2004).