

## A new genus and two new species of whiteflies from Australia (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae)

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### Abstract

*Pseudosynaleurodicus* **gen. n.** is described with two new species, *P. mayoi* **sp. n.** and *P. nigrimarginatus* **sp. n.** These new taxa have some exceptional morphological characters, including emarginate bulla-like terminal tarsal segments, two segmented legs, and features of the vasiform orifice. Placement of these taxa in the Aleurodicinae is tentative given some of their extraordinary morphological characters.

**Key words:** Whiteflies, Aleurodicinae, Australia, morphology

### Introduction

Until recently the broad diversity of the Australian whitefly fauna remained unrecognised as highlighted by the studies of Jon Martin (1999), bringing to light a wealth of new species during several fleeting visits to Australia. He more than doubled the number of described Australian species (to 101) whilst recognising that many other undescribed species languished in collections awaiting description. Prior to the present study 43 genera were recognised from Australia, 41 in the Aleyrodinae and two in the Aleurodicinae, (*Aleurodicus* Douglas with three species and *Synaleurodicus* Solomon with two species).

The new taxa here described have recently been discovered in Western Australia and south eastern Queensland, and show close affinities to *Synaleurodicus*, a genus of two species also from south western Western Australia. All species in *Synaleurodicus* and *Pseudosynaleurodicus* feed on, and are considered likely to be limited to, a small range of Proteaceous hosts.

Whilst the main morphological characters used to define the two extant subfamilies appear to be robust for most taxa some exceptions do occur. Exceptions within the Aleurodicinae include *Stenaleyrodes* Takahashi, with puparia lacking tarsal claws (Martin