



***Kaieteurodicus*, description and discussion of a new genus of neotropical aleurodicine whitefly (Hemiptera, Sternorrhyncha, Aleurodicinae)**

JON H. MARTIN

Department of Entomology, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK. E-mail j.martin@nhm.ac.uk

Abstract

Kaieteurodicus **gen. nov.** is described. It accommodates two new species, *K. cereus* from Guyana and *K. panamensis* from Panamá. The new genus is discussed in relation to a study of the genus *Aleurodicus* Douglas, which is continuing.

Key words: Whitefly, Aleurodicinae, new genus, new species, neotropical

Introduction

The definitions of many of the New World genera of Aleurodicinae have been unsatisfactory for many decades. Some early attempts to provide keys to whitefly genera of both subfamilies (*e.g.* Bondar, 1923; Sampson, 1943; Sampson & Drews, 1941, 1956) attempted to provide couplets of unrealistic brevity, and also revealed more taxonomic problems than were solved. As part of a study of the Aleurodicinae of Belize the present author studied examples of puparia of all nominal aleurodicine genera from the Neotropical Region, along with a large proportion of the described species, and presented a puparial key to New World aleurodicine genera based on revised generic diagnoses suggested by the study (Martin, 2004). Based, in part, on this generic reappraisal of the neotropical aleurodicine genera, studies are now progressing towards a systematic reappraisal of the genus *Aleurodicus* Douglas, which currently also includes palaeotropical species which do not concur with the revised diagnosis for the genus.

Field work in Guyana, South America, in 2006 resulted in the collection of a sample of an undescribed species belonging to an unrecognised aleurodicine genus. Examination of slides of other unidentified Aleurodicinae in the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH) has revealed material of a second species that is congeneric with the Guyanese sample. These two species display characters that exclude them from the New World aleurodicine genera defined hitherto. A description of this new genus, with its two included species, was included in early drafts of the work to revise *Aleurodicus* but it became evident that this approach did not easily fit into the manuscript format for that study. The decision was therefore taken to prepare this short paper, whose purposes are to describe the new genus *Kaieteurodicus* and its two included species and to discuss its affinities, particularly with respect to *Aleurodicus*. The continuing work on *Aleurodicus* *s. lat.* will now deal only with taxa included in *Aleurodicus* in the recent world whitefly check list (Martin & Mound, 2007), along with new species revealed by the study.

Abbreviations for specimen depositories

BMNH Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD, U.K.