

## First record of *Aleurolobus olivinus* (Silvestri) (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae) in Malta

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In recent years there have been a number of faunistic studies on the whitefly fauna of the Mediterranean Basin. A total of 56 species accommodated within 25 genera were recorded from Europe and countries bordering the Mediterranean Basin (Martin *et al.*, 2000). The whitefly fauna of the Maltese Islands was thoroughly investigated with 13 species recorded (Mifsud, 1995; Mifsud & Palmieri, 1996). Mifsud (1995) suggested that other whitefly species could eventually be found in Malta mainly due to their typical Mediterranean distribution and availability of their host plant/s. One such species, *Aleurolobus olivinus* (Silvestri), was recently collected in Malta and it thus represents a new record for this country.

The identification of this species was based on examination of pupal cases under a compound microscope and the following dichotomous keys were used: Martin *et al.*, 2000; Mifsud, 1995 and Mifsud & Palmieri, 2000.

*Aleurolobus olivinus* (Silvestri, 1911)

Material examined: MALTA: Hamrun, 17.ii.2005, several pupal cases found on the upper surface of leaves of olive trees (*Olea europaea* L.) planted in the back yard (inside car park) of the Hexagon House of HSBC Bank, leg. D. Mifsud.

*Aleurolobus olivinus* (Silvestri) is a typical Mediterranean species being recorded from the following territories: Corsica, Crete, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Mallorca, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Sardinia, Sicily, Spain, Syria, and Turkey. The species is mainly found on oleaceous hosts (*Olea europaea*, *Phillyrea angustifolia* and *Phillyrea latifolia*) but it has also been recorded from *Erica* (Bink-Moenen, 1989). Occasionally, *A. olivinus* (Silvestri) becomes a minor pest of olives, however, the species is well controlled by a number of natural enemies, namely parasitoids (Maniglia, 1985). Generally, *A. olivinus* (Silvestri) goes through one generation per year with adults appearing in June and July; in western Sicily, however, two generations per year were recorded with adults emerging in June-July and again in September-October (Maniglia, 1985).

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### REFERENCES

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