



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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### Spiralling whitefly (025)



Photo 1. Spirals of eggs and wax, made by the spiralling whitefly, *Aleurodicus dispersus*.



Photo 2. Spirals of eggs and wax on the fruit of papaya made by the spiralling whitefly, *Aleurodicus dispersus*.



Photo 3. The oval nymphs of *Aleurodicus dispersus* can just be seen to the right of the band of whitefly adults, and also at the bottom of the spiral.



Photo 4. Adults, *Aleurodicus dispersus*.



Photo 5. Heavy infestation of spiraling whitefly, *Aleurodicus dispersus*, on a papaya fruit.



Photo 6. Heavy infection of spiralling whitefly, *Aleurodicus dispersus*, on guava. The silken threads of wax oridyuiced by the female are clearly seen.



Photo 7. Predator on spiraling whitefly, *Aleurodicus dispersus*, on guava. Possibly a *Cryptolaemus* species.

## Summary

- Worldwide distribution. In tropics and sub-tropics. Wide host range: bananas and many fruit trees, ornamentals and vegetables. Active at dawn and dusk. An important pest.
- Direct damage results from adult whiteflies sucking sap from leaves and fruits causing early death; indirect damage results from sooty moulds growing on leaves covered by honeydew deposits, and blocking sunlight.
- Eggs laid in spirals among wax by moth-like adults.
- Natural enemies: parasitoid wasps (main control)
- Cultural control: prune branches with heavy infestations.
- Chemical control: use soap, white or horticultural oils; or synthetic pyrethroids, but insecticides may increase the problem by destroying natural enemies.

## Common Name

Spiralling whitefly

## Scientific Name

*Aleurodicus dispersus*

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The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

