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Alain Roques

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**14.32 – *Trialeurodes vaporariorum* (Westwood, 1856) - Glasshouse whitefly
(Hemiptera, Aleyrodidae)**

Alain Roques

Description and biological cycle: Adult small, white to pale yellow, about 1mm long; the wings held relatively flat when at rest and coated with powdery wax (*Photo- adult male*). While single whitefly can be difficult to see, large numbers clustered on the underside of leaves are very obvious. They tend to fly rapidly when the plant is disturbed. The female may lay more than 500 eggs during its 3–6 weeks- long life. Eggs are laid in a circle on smooth leaves; on hairy leaves, they are more dispersed and less regularly situated. The eggs hatch about 9 days after egg-laying at 21°C. Newly emerged nymphs are mobile for a short period before settling to feed, their stylets inserted in leaf tissue, passing through three instars. Then, they stop feeding, moult and remain in a pupa for about 18 days. Reproduction is essentially parthenogenetic. Overwintering occurs at all instars. In northern climates, this whitefly usually lives in glasshouses on wild plants, or in summer on adjacent plants outside. Further south, adults may also overwinter on wild plants growing outdoors if the climatic conditions are not too severe. Reproduction occurs throughout the year when conditions are favourable, with several generations overlapping. Under optimum conditions at 21–24°C, the development from egg to adult takes about 3–4 weeks. Highly polyphagous, this species is capable of attacking 249 genera of plants. It attacks mainly vegetables, especially tomatoes, cucumbers and several other economic plants especially when they are grown in greenhouses. It can also be found on a wide selection of ornamentals, with a predilection for *Asteraceae*, and of weeds, including sow thistles (*Sonchus* spp.), milkweed (*Euphorbia peplus*), and mallows (*Malva* spp.).

Native habitat (EUNIS code): Unknown.

Habitat occupied in invaded range (EUNIS code): J100- glasshouses; I- Regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats; I1- Arable land and market gardens.

Native range: Central America, essentially tropical and subtropical.



Credit: LNPV/ Montpellier Station