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## CITRUS WHITEFLY

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Dialeurodes citri* (Ashmead)

**CLASS:** Insecta

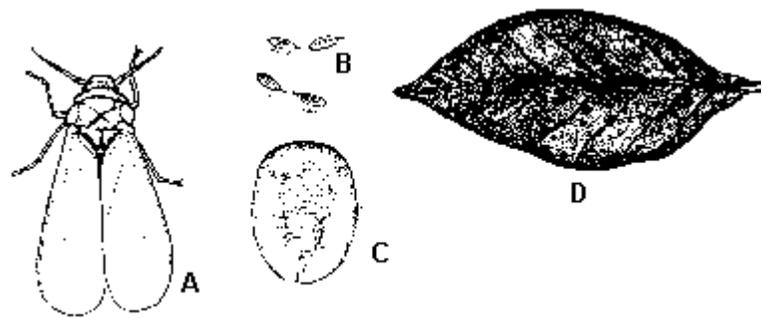
**ORDER:** Hemiptera

**FAMILY:** Alerodidae



**Citrus Whitefl**

From: [Aggie Horticulture](#)



**A. Adult   B. Eggs   C. Pupa   D. Infested gardenia leaf**

### Life Ccle

From: [NC E"tension](#)

## DESCRIPTION

**Adults:** The adult is a tin, moth-like, four-winged, meal-white insect with a wing span of less than 4.3 mm. Most often the rest on the undersides of leaves and fl about when plants are disturbed.

**Eggs:** The citrus whitefl las ellow eggs with a nearl smooth surface. The eggs are about 0.25 mm long, elliptical, and most frequentl laid on oung tender leaves.

**Nmpths:** The first instar is the onl mobile nmphal stage. After the first instar the nmpths are flattened, oval, and similar in appearance to soft scale insects. Nmpths are translucent, oval in outline, and ver thin. The leaf color will show through the thin nmphal bod, therefore nmpths are difficult to see.

**Pupae:** The pupal case is ver similar to nmpths, but is slightl thickened and more opaque. The red ee spots of the adult are ver prominent in developing pupal cases.

## BIOLOGY

**Distribution:** Reported from Virginia southward and around to Te"as, then westward to California.

**Host Plants:** The primary host plant is citrus of all types, but many ornamentals are also hosts. The most common are *Allamanda*, banana shrub, Boston ivy, chinaberry, English ivy, gardenia, lilac, pear, osage orange, and privet.

**Damage:** Direct damage is caused by the removal of sap. Indirect damage is caused by the excretion of copious amounts of honeydew where soot molds grow. This black mold will contribute to poor aesthetics and perhaps interfere with photosynthesis.

**Life Cycle:** Winter or colder periods are passed as late nymphal stages on the undersides of leaves. These may be on some remaining plants or weeds growing under benches. In the spring or when heat is applied adults will emerge and deposit eggs on the undersides of new plant growth. These eggs will hatch in 8 to 24 days, depending on the temperature. The nymphal stage will last from 23 to 30 days. Overall the life cycle from egg to adult will vary from 41 days to more than 300. The adult will live as long as 27 days.

## CONTROL

Controls are difficult because the eggs and nymphs are located on the underside of leaves, and they may also be resistant to some aerosol chemicals. Adult control usually will involve multiple applications as the nymphs mature and all have emerged as adults. Some of the new synthetic pyrethroids make controls much more successful. However, chemicals must be alternated to lessen the chance of a chemical-tolerant or resistant population developing. In some states biological control using *Encarsia lahorensis* has been very successful. This parasitoid should be functional in the Gulf Coast states and warmer areas of other states.

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