

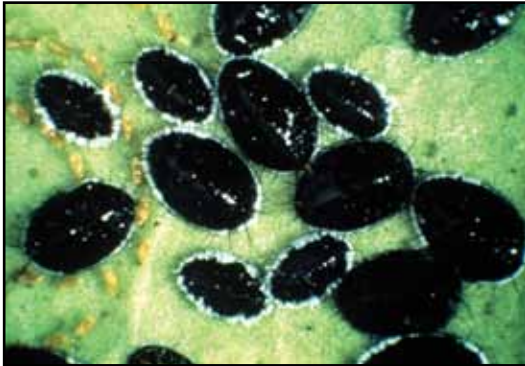
# CITRUS PEST SPOTLIGHT



**Fig. 1 (above).** Adult citrus blackfly (*Aleurocanthus woglumi* Ashby)



**Fig. 2 (center).** Typical spiral arrangement of citrus blackfly eggs laid on the lower surface of a citrus leaf. Also present are first instar blackfly nymphs.



**Fig. 3.** Mature citrus blackfly nymphs

## Citrus blackfly

By Michael E. Rogers

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Aleurocanthus woglumi* (Ashmead)  
(Homoptera: Aleyrodidae)

### IDENTIFICATION

Adults (Fig. 1) are small, about 1 mm in length, and dark black in color with wings that are held roof-like over their bodies. Eggs (Fig. 2) are laid in a spiral pattern on the underside of citrus leaves. The egg stage lasts from two to three days, followed by four nymphal stages (Fig. 3). The



**Fig. 4.** Sooty mold development on honeydew produced by high populations of citrus blackfly

time required to develop from egg to adult is temperature-dependent and ranges from 45 to 130 days.

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# CITRUS PEST SPOTLIGHT



**Fig. 5 (right).** High population of citrus blackfly development on citrus foliage



**Fig. 7 (right).** *Amitus hesperidum* Silvestri (Hymenoptera: Platygasteridae), parasitoid of citrus blackfly and blackfly nymphs showing parasitoid emergence holes



**Fig. 6 (left).** *Encarsia opulenta* Silvestri (Hymenoptera: Aphelinidae), parasitoid of citrus blackfly released and established in Florida

citrus blackfly is a reduction in tree and fruit growth due to sooty mold (Fig. 4, page 20) that can develop on the copious amounts of honeydew produced when blackfly populations reach high levels (Fig. 5). Direct feeding damage by citrus blackfly is not a concern.

## MANAGEMENT

Citrus blackfly has been established in Florida since the mid-1970s. Due to its low dispersal rate and lengthy development time, classical biological control programs were successful in establishing two parasitoids that have maintained blackfly populations below economically damaging levels. These parasitoids are *Encarsia opulenta* (Silvestri) (Fig. 6) and *Amitus hesperidum* (Silvestri) (Fig. 7). Use of insecticides for control of citrus blackfly should not be required so long as these parasitoids are present in citrus groves.

Michael E. Rogers is a University of Florida-IFAS associate professor of entomology at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred. 🍊

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