

**2ND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FRUIT CULTURE ALONG SILK ROAD COUNTRIES
"FRUITS FOR THE FUTURE"**



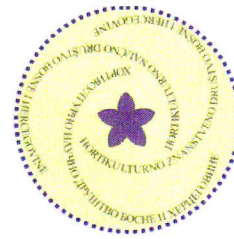
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October 2 – 6, 2017

Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina



ORGANIZERS



International Society for Horticultural Science
and
Society for Horticultural Science of Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Water Management



SPREADING OF *ALEUROCANTHUS SPINIFERUS* (QUAINTANCE) (HEMIPTERA: ALEYRODIDAE) IN COASTAL AREA OF MONTENEGRO

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THE PRESENCE of orange spiny whitefly *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* (Quaintance) is reported for the first time in Montenegro in 2013. It was found in producing citrus orchards (mandarin and orange) in an area of Boka Kotor Bay (Montenegro seacoast). In following years it has been gradually spreading within this area. In 2014 it was registered for the first time beyond area of Boka Kotor Bay, eastwards, in citrus orchards in an area of Bar, which is distanced from the first detection site. Apart from spreading in new localities and infesting citrus in area of Boka Kotor Bay and Bar, the presence of *A. spiniferus* was also registered on new host plants in 2015. Infested *Rosa* sp., *Helix hederæ*, *Vitis vinifera*, *Laurus nobilis*, *Wisteria sinensis* and *Punica granatum* were detected in the vicinity of the first detection site. In 2016 the pest was confirmed from the same areas and same hosts as in a previous years. Visual inspections showed that, apart from citrus which showed symptoms of severe infestations, *Rosa* sp. is particularly susceptible and heavily infested, followed by *H. hederæ*. As results of excretions of copious amounts of sugary honeydew which coat the leaves, branches and fruits of infested plants they become quickly covered by black sooty mould. It was also noticed that heavy infested citrus and rose plants were almost completely black in appearance with *prematurely falling leaves*. Having in mind this is a polyphagous pest, its current distribution and detected host plants alert about a possible further spreading and damages not only in citrus (as the most important host plants so far), but also for urban greenery and fruit production along the Montenegro seacoast.

KEY WORDS: Orange spiny whitefly, *Aleurocanthus spiniferus*, Spreading, New hosts, Damages

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