

Bugs and Shrubs Buzz

by Doug Caldwell, "Dr. Dougbug"

New Ixora Whitefly Found in Collier County in December 2016



The first report of this Asian species, *Asiothrixus antidesmae*, was in St. Petersburg in Jan. 2016. It has the "nesting" pattern behavior as it deposits its eggs in a circular pattern with white waxy material.

The host list includes: *Anthurium andreanum*, basil, *Gardenia jasminoides*, *Ixora*, *Smilax*, and Clusiaceae, specifically *Garcinia eugeniaefolia*. There are a number of fruit trees in the *Garcinia* genus, but they are not widespread.

Our concern is: will it attack our ficus monoculture replacement, the new monoculture of Dwarf Pitch-apple, *Clusia nana* aka *C. fluminensis*? Keep your eyes on the look out!

See:

http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/65854/1570956/PEST_ALERT_Asiothrixus_antidesmae_Whitefly_.pdf

Doug Caldwell is a landscape entomologist and works for the Cooperative Extension Service, which is an off-campus branch of the University of Florida, Institute of the Food and Agricultural Sciences and a Division of the Public Services Department of Collier County government. Call 239-252-4800. Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, creed, sex, handicap, or national origin. For updates on the Southwest Florida Horticultural Learning Center and more landscape pest management details, visit <http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu>