

# Pest Alert

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**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry**  
**Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture**

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## **Aloe vera aphid, *Aloephagus myersi* Essi**

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**INTRODUCTION:** The aloe vera aphid, *Aloephagus myersi* Essig, was found on an aloe vera plant in a discount store in Deltona, Florida, by Plant Industry inspector Stacey Simmons on 2-October-2002. This aphid is known to occur in California, but has not been reported before in Florida.

Aloe vera aphids are covered with fuzzy whitish wax. They feed at the bases of the leaves, or in rolled ends of damaged leaves. Soiling from honey dew and sooty mold can be extensive.

**HOSTS:** In the USA, the only known hosts are *Aloe* spp. In tropical Africa, host alternation (probably with gall formation) to *Pistacia* is suspected, but not documented (Blackman and Eastop 1994).

**DISTRIBUTION:** Aloe vera aphids were described from California, but probably are native to tropical Africa (Blackman and Eastop 1994). They also are found in greenhouses in Europe.

### **REFERENCES:**

**Blackman, R.L., and V.F. Eastop.** 1994. *Aphids on the World's Trees*. CABI, Wallingford, U.K.



Fig. 1. Aloe vera aphid.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Lotz, DPI





Fig. 2. Aloe vera aphid colony.  
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Fig. 3. Aloe vera leaf damage. Aphids are inside rolled leaf.  
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Fig. 4. Aloe vera aphid plant damage.  
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