



Pacific Pests and Pathogens - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Tomato keeled treehopper (248)



Photo 1. Nymphs and adults, tomato keeled treehopper, *Antianthe expansa*.



Photo 2. Tomato plant (centre) infested with the tomato keeled treehopper, *Antianthe expansa*. The capsiicum plants either side of the tomato have been killed by treehopper attack.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Central and North America, Oceania. On crops in the potato family, and weeds. An important although only occasional pest.
- Eggs laid in double row of slits in stems; nymphs reddish-brown with black spines; adults with high ridge and triangular extensions. Suck sap, causing wilts, and death of seedlings and young plants. They make honeydew that attracts ants.
- Cultural control: handpick hoppers when first seen; weed; remove ants (kill nests with hot water).
- Chemical control: PDPs: derris, pyrethrum, or chilli; try white or horticultural oils or soap; use synthetic pyrethroids to kill ants.

Common Name

Keeled treehopper

Scientific Name

Antianthe expansa

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Information from King ABS, Saunders JL (1984) *The invertebrate pests of annual food crops in Central America*. Overseas Development Administration, London. Photos 1&2 Sone Foliaki, Deputy Director and Head of Agricultural Research and Information Division, MAF, Tonga.

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