



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Fact Sheets

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Bean Phaseolus rust (217)



Photo 1. Bean rust, *Uromyces appendiculatus*, on *Phaseolus* bean leaves.



Photo 2. Bean rust, *Uromyces appendiculatus*, on the top surface (right) and underside (left) of *Phaseolus* bean leaves.

Common Name

Bean rust (*Phaseolus* spp.)

Scientific Name

Uromyces appendiculatus var. *appendiculatus*. Previously *Uromyces phaseoli*.

Distribution

Worldwide; Asia, Africa, North, South and Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, Oceania. It is recorded from American Samoa, Australia, Fiji, Guam, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands. However, according to the check list for Solomon Islands (McKenzie and Jackson, 1986) it is probable that the two records of *Uromyces appendiculatus* on cowpea in Solomon Islands are misidentifications of *Uromyces vignae*.

Hosts

Mainly on beans, *Phaseolus* species. Another rust, *Uromyces vignae* occurs on *Vigna* species (*Vigna marina* and *Vigna unguiculata* ssp. *sesquipedalis*). This rust occurs widely, and is present in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Island, and Tonga.

Symptoms & Life Cycle

Circular pustules, 1-2 mm diameter, light green with distinctive yellow haloes on the top surface, scattered over both sides of the leaves, and on the pods (Photos 1&2). Later, the pustules rupture producing reddish-brown powdery spore masses.

The rust has all five spore stages, and completes its life cycle on *Phaseolus* species. This is in contrast to other rust species that have fewer life stages, and others that may have all stages, but more than one host.

Spread is by spores blown in the wind. Some spore types are specially adapted for survival and have thick dark walls; they can survive a long time in the atmosphere, travelling great distances. The hardiness of the spores increases the chance infection of bean crops. In the tropics, new bean crops often overlap old ones, so that survival of rust is more easily assured

Impact

The rust causes a destructive disease of beans. Loss in yield are reported from many countries; not only do the losses depend on the environment - the rust favours relatively cool, damp weather with heavy dews - but also on variety as there are differences in susceptibility.

Detection & inspection

Look for reddish-brown circular pustules with yellow halos, producing masses of spores on leaves and pods. Expert examination is necessary to distinguish between *Uromyces appendiculatus* and *Uromyces vignae*.

Management

CULTURAL CONTROL

There are several ways to reduce the impact of rust on *Phaseolus* beans, apart from using fungicides:

During growth:

- Plant beans with maize as a mixed intercrop. A "mixed intercrop" is one where the crops are planted at random, not in rows.

After harvest:

- Collect and burn or bury as much of the crop as possible.
- Do not plant one crop of beans after another in the same land; use a rotation of at least 2-years.
- Do not plant another crop of beans while the last crop is still in the ground, otherwise the rust will easily spread from the old crop to the younger one.

RESISTANT VARIETIES

There are a number of varieties with resistance to bean rust; contact agriculture authorities or seed suppliers to see if any are available in your area.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

If fungicides are needed, use mancozeb. Start to spray when symptoms first appear.

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Photos I Kohler F, Pellegrin F, Jackson G, McKenzie E (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia. Information from *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010). Editors, Denis Persley, Tony Cooke, Susan House. CSIRO Publishing.

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