



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Fact Sheets

<https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ppp/>

### Giant taro leaf spot (188)



Photo 1. Large number of small round leaf spots, *Mycosphaerella alocasiae*, up to 8 mm diameter,



Photo 2. Large number of small round leaf spots, *Mycosphaerella alocasiae*, up to 8 mm diameter,



Photo 3. Spots on leaf of giant taro, *Mycosphaerella alocasiae*, showing spots of different sizes, up to 8 mm diameter, with grey centres and brown borders.



Photo 4. Spots on leaf of giant taro, *Mycosphaerella alocasiae*. Note that the margin of the leaf is first to be infected, and that one side of the leaf is infected first because of the way the leaf unfurls.

#### Common Name

Giant taro leaf spot

#### Scientific Name

*Mycosphaerella alocasiae*; the asexual name is *Pasalora colocasiae*.

#### Distribution

Narrow. South and Southeast Asia, Oceania. It is recorded from American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Wallis & Futuna

#### Hosts

Giant taro (*Alocasia macrorrhizos*)

#### Symptoms & Life Cycle

Infections take place when the leaves are young, but the spots do not develop until the leaves are mature. They start as small round flecks, sunken and grey with a raised brown border, increasing up to 8 mm diameter, but much smaller when the leaf is heavily infected (Photos 1&2). Sometimes they have a yellow halo. Small black dots are present in the middle of the grey centres, especially on the upper surface of the leaves; these are the fruiting bodies containing large numbers of spores.

Spread of the spores occurs in wind-blown rain.

#### Impact

Only the old leaves are infected by the fungus, making it unlikely that it affects corm yield to any great extent, although leaves with severe

infections die prematurely.

## Detection & inspection

Look for small round spots with grey centres and brown borders on the oldest leaves. Look for black dots in the centre of the spots.

## Management

No control measures are recommended for this disease. The disease only affects older leaves, and so it is unlikely that corm yields are reduced to any great extent; the application of control measures would be uneconomic.

---

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson & Eric McKenzie

Photo 2 (taken by Eric McKenzie), and used in this fact sheet, appeared previously in McKenzie E (2013) *Mycospheella alocasiae* PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>). Photo 3 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. Photo 4 Fred Brooks, University of Hawaii, Bugwood.org.

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC/2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

---

This fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.



---

Copyright © 2020. All rights reserved.