



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Fact Sheets

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### Sugarcane veneer blotch (219)



Photo 1. Oval spots of veneer blotch on the midrib and leaf blade of sugarcane, caused by *Deightoniella papuana*. Note how the older spots enclose the younger ones.

#### Common Name

Sugarcane veneer blotch

#### Scientific Name

*Deightoniella papuana*

#### Distribution

Narrow. Only known from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Solomon Islands.

#### Hosts

Sugarcane

#### Symptoms & Life Cycle

The leaf spots are at first small, oval, light green to pale yellow, with thin red margins. Later, they become surrounded by a number (2-12) of progressively larger spots, each with a light green interior (turning light brown), and outlined by a 0.5-1 mm dark red border (Photo 1). The spots can reach 60 cm long by 1-1.5 cm wide. The spot has a veneer pattern, particularly on the upper surface, hence the name.

The underside of the leaf becomes black as the fungus forms spores.

Spread of the fungus is by airborne spores.

#### Impact

It is unlikely that this disease causes damage of economic value.

#### Detection & inspection

Look for the distinct oval spots that become successively surrounded by larger spots as they develop along the leaf blade or midrib.

#### Management

This is a disease that is not well researched, but it seems likely that management is unnecessary as the damage caused is slight. It is more a curiosity, because of its unique symptoms, than one of economic interest.

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Photo 1 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.

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC2010/090: *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.

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