



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Fact Sheets

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Sugarcane white rash (220)



Photo 1. Oval spots, purple at first and later white with red margins, of white rash, *Elsinoe sacchari*.

Common Name

Sugarcane white rash, white speck

Scientific Name

Elsinoe sacchari; the asexual state is *Sphaceloma sacchari*.

Distribution

Widespread. Asia, North and South America, the Caribbean, Oceania. It is recorded from Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Guam, and Marshall Islands.

Hosts

Sugarcane

Symptoms & Life Cycle

The spots occur on the leaf blades, less frequently on the midribs and sheaths. They are yellowish or purple, oval, 1-4 mm long and up to 1 mm wide (Photo 1). Later, the spots become light brown or whitish-grey with a reddish margin. They may join together and form streaks.

Spread is most likely by wind.

Impact

There are no records of the damage done by this disease.

Detection & inspection

Look for the distinctive small, oval (1-4 mm long) spots on the leaf blades, and the midribs; they are purple at first, later becoming white with red margins, and sometimes joining together.

Management

The disease is of little or no economic importance, so control treatments are unnecessary.

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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.

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