



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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### Bean flower thrips (342)



Photo 1. Bean flower thrips, *Megalurothrips usitatus*, on bean flower.



Photo 2. Adult female, bean flower thrips, *Megalurothrips usitatus*.

#### Summary

- Widespread distribution. On food legumes, e.g., cowpea, French bean. Probably, minor pest in Pacific islands.
- Infests the flowers. Pods twist and deform, and show brown feeding marks. Large numbers cause poor pod set, stunting, wilts. Not known to spread virus.
- Nymphs yellow, later orange-red. Adults greyish-brown with striped abdomen.
- Adults and nymphs spread on air currents.
- Cultural control: crop rotation with non-legume crops; avoid planting next to infested crops; intercrop with non-hosts, e.g., capsicum between yard-long beans; weed; in small plantings, hose plants with jets of water to remove thrips; after harvest, destroy trash.
- Chemical control: pesticides not recommended; synthetic pyrethroids or malathion will kill natural enemies; also, difficult to reach inside flowers. If necessary, try botanical sprays (derris, chilli, garlic, neem), or horticultural oil, white oil, or soap solution (see **Fact Sheet no. 56**).

#### Common Name

Bean flower thrips, Oriental bean thrips, Asian bean thrips

#### Scientific Name

*Megalurothrips usitatus*; previously known as *Taeniothrips nigricornis*

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<sup>1</sup>Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. London; and CABI (2016) *Megalurothrips usitatus* (bean flower thrips) Crop Protection Compendium. ([www.cabi.org/cpc](http://www.cabi.org/cpc)); and from Bean flower thrips (*Megalurothrips usitatus*) Plantwise Knowledge Bank. (<http://www.plantwise.org/KnowledgeBank/Datasheet.aspx?dsID=33140>). Photo 1 Desley Tree (2010) Oriental bean flower thrips, Asian bean thrips (*Megalurothrips usitatus*) PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>. Photo 2. Ko Ko Maung, 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.

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