



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Cabbage (mustard) aphid (332)



Photo 1. Adult mustard aphid, *Lipaphis erysimi*. Note the green bands on the back of the aphid.



Photo 2. Adult winged mustard aphid, *Lipaphis erysimi*.



Photo 3. The swollen mustard aphids, *Lipaphis erysimi*, have been parasitised. They are known as 'mummies'.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On plants in cabbage family and related weeds. An important pest.
- Infestations cause: i) curling, yellowing and stunting, especially mustards; ii) honeydew that spoils quality; and iii) spread of viruses.
- Adults 1.7 mm long. Wingless - greenish-yellow, covered in fine wax, with green bands along top of the body, and dark antennae. Winged - shiny black heads and prothorax (segment behind head), and green abdomen. In tropics, females give birth to living young without mating.
- Spread by winged forms in wind currents.
- Natural enemies: many predators and parasitoid wasps (e.g., *Diaeretiella*, *Aphidius*, *Aphelinus*).
- Cultural control: nursery hygiene: clean trays, pasteurise soil or use soilless mixes; avoid planting next to, or down-wind from infested crops; weed; remove infested leaves; destroy ant colonies with boiling water (or insecticides); collect and destroy debris after harvest.
- Chemical control: i) PDPs (derris, chilli, garlic, neem, pyrethrum); ii) soap solution, horticultural or white oils (see **Fact Sheet no. 56**). Avoid broad-spectrum products. Only use e.g., synthetic pyrethroids to kill ants.

Common Name

Cabbage aphid, mustard aphid, turnip aphid.

Scientific Name

Lipaphis erysimi, previously known as *Lipaphis pseudobrassicae* and *Rhopalosiphum pseudobrassicae*.

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Information from CABI (2017) *Lipaphis erysimi* (mustard aphid) Crop Protection Compendium. (www.cabi.org/cpc); and from *Lipaphis erysimi* (Kaltenbach) (2007) Crop Knowledge Master Department of Entomology, Honolulu, Hawaii. (<http://www.extento.hawaii.edu/kbase/crop/type/lipaphis.htm>). Photo 1-3 Alton N. Sparks, Jr., University of Georgia, Bugwood.org. Photo 4 Caroline Smith, University of Tasmania, Australia.

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

