



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

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### Cassava brown streak disease (439)



Photo 2. Cassava brown streak disease showing that the older leaves are those with symptoms.



Photo 1. Symptoms of cassava brown streak disease mostly following the secondary veins, and the veins from them.



Photo 3. Patches developing from the secondary veins have joined with those from adjacent veins.



Photo 4. Dark streaks on a young green stem caused by *Cassava brown streak virus*.



Photo 5. Constrictions on roots of a plant infected with *Cassava brown streak virus*.



Photo 6. Brown dry rots in cassava roots infected with cassava brown streak disease.



Photo 7. Brown dry rots in cassava roots infected with cassava brown streak disease.



Photo 8. Whiteflies, presumably, *Bemisia argentifolia*, vector of the cassava brown streak viruses.



Photo 9. Cassava mosaic disease (CMD) symptoms in a field in Tanzania. Note leaf is severely deformed.

## Summary

- Restricted. Predominantly, East and Central Africa, uncommon in West Africa. It is NOT recorded in Oceania.
- Serious disease of cassava, wild cassava and weeds. Annual losses from Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda put at US\$750 million, increasing as CBSV spreads across the cassava belt of Africa.
- Symptoms vary according to variety and environment. Yellow patches occur along secondary veins, sometimes joining together. Streaks appear on the young green stems. Roots are often smaller than normal, show constrictions, and have dark brown dry rots in the flesh. Dieback occurs in the most susceptible varieties.
- Spread over a few metres by whiteflies, *Bemisia argentifolia* (see **Fact Sheet no. 284**). Longer distances by exchange of planting material. Infestations over 1000 masl now common, possibly due to increase in whitefly populations.
- Biosecurity: prohibit unregulated cassava introductions; follow FAO Technical Guidelines for cassava germplasm moved internationally; use only virus-tested tissue cultures.
- Cultural control: plant cuttings only from healthy plants; preferably, use certified cuttings; rogue infected plants; at harvest, collect and destroy infected plants.
- Chemical control: avoid broad-spectrum insecticides - repeated use will promote resistant whitefly populations; use white oil, horticultural oil or soap (see **Fact Sheet no. 56**).

## Common Name

Cassava brown streak disease

## Scientific Name

*Cassava brown streak virus* and *Ugandan cassava brown streak virus* are the cause of the disease. The abbreviations of these viruses are CBSV and UCBSV, respectively. The virus particles are flexuous rods, about 650 nm. Severe and mild isolates exist.

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AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from <sup>1</sup>CABI (2019) Cassava brown streak virus (cassava brown streak disease). Crop Protection Compendium. (<http://www.cabi.org/cpc>); and Tomlinson KR *et al.* (2018) Cassava brown streak disease: historical timeline, current knowledge and future prospects. *Molecular Plant Pathology* 19(5):1282-1294. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5947582/>); and Amisse JG *et al.* (2019) First report of cassava brown streak viruses on wild plant species in Mozambique. *Physiological and Molecular Plant Pathology* 105:88-95. (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmpp.2018.10.005>); and from Cassava brown streak disease: control measures, Uganda. National Crops Research Institute, Namulonge, Kampala, Uganda. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (<http://www.fao.org/3/CA2940EN/ca2940en.pdf>). Photos 1-5, &7,8 Stephen Winter, Department of Virology, DSMZ-German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, Braunschweig, Lower Saxony, Germany. Photo 6 Abigail Rumsey International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (Flicker), Ibadan, Nigeria. Photo 9 H. Holmes/RTB Cassava mosaic disease (CMD) symptoms in a field in Tanzania. Root, Tubers and Bananas. CGIAR.

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project HORT/2016/185: *Responding to emerging pest and disease threats to horticulture in the Pacific islands*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific.

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International Agricultural Research

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