Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Citrus rust mite (344)

Photo 1. Citrus rust mite, *Phyllocoptruta oleivora*, on limes, clearly showing the constrast between the damaged and health parts of the fruit.

Photo 2. Citrus rust mite, *Phyllocoptruta oleivora*, damage on an orange.

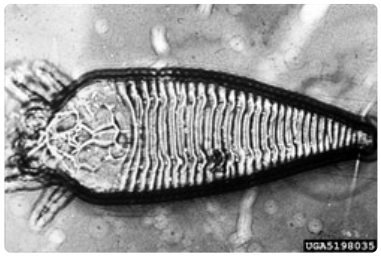

Photo 2. Adult citrus rust mite, *Phyllocoptruta oleivora*.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. Citrus species. An important microscopic mite.
- Rind slightly rough, silvery (grapefruit and lemons), reddish or black (oranges). Small fruit, which stores poorly. Foliage turns bronze with heavy infestations. Worse on fruit on outside of tree.
- Eggs in pits in leaves or stems; nymphs and adults similar: yellowish, wedge-shaped; adults 0.15 mm long.
- Spread in rain splash, and over greater distances on wind currents, on birds, insects, machinery, clothing, or in the plant trade.
- Natural enemies: predatory mites *(Amblyseius)*.
- Cultural control: none.
- Chemical control: use pesticides if damage is severe - use lime sulphur or wettable sulphur, leaving 30 days if also spraying oils (READ INSTRUCTIONS); alternatively, spot-spray with soap solution, horticultural or white oils (**see Fact Sheet no. 56**); or use abametin. Avoid malathion and synthetic pyrethroids; they will kill predatory mites.

Common Name

Citrus rust mite

Scientific Name

Phyllocoptrata oleivora; previously known as *Eriophyes oleivorus*.

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[1]Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. London; and CABI (2017) *Phyllocoptrata oleivora* (citrus rust mite) Crop Protection Compendium. (www.cabi.org/cpc); and Mite pests

of citrus (1983) Agfacts NSW Agriculture. (http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/138705/mite-pests-citrus.pdf); and Using petroleum-based spray oils in citrus (2005) Agfacts NSW Agriculture. (https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/137646/petroleum-sprays-citrus.pdf); and from Citrus rust mite (silver mite) UC/IPM University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources. (http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/138705/mite-pests-citrus.pdf). Photo 1 Don Ferrin, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Bugwood.org. Photo 2 Florida Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org.

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