



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Cocoa horsehair blight (005)



Photo 1. Horse hair blight, *Marasmius crinis-equi*, growing over branches and leaves.



Photo 2. Black threads of horse hair blight, *Marasmius crinis-equi*, growing along a branch and then from the branch over the surface of a leaf.



Photo 3. Old leaves of cocoa held in place by threads of horse hair blight, *Marasmius crinis-equi*, giving the impression that they have been killed by the fungus.



Photo 4. Old leaves of cocoa held together by threads of horse hair blight, *Marasmius crinis-equi*.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Asia, tropical America, Oceania. On cocoa, tea, mango and black pepper. The fungus does not cause a disease.
- Thin, dark threads grow over the leaves and branches, without infecting them. The leaves die naturally, but are held in place by the threads, making it look as if they have killed them.
- Cultural control: none required on cocoa, although it is uncertain if the fungus is a pathogen of other crops.
- Chemical control: none required.

Common Name

Horsehair blight

Scientific Name

Marasmius crinis-equi; also *Marasmius equicrinis*.

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

