



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Coconut sexava treehopper (246)



Photo 1. Isolated coconuts growing amongst dense vegetation heavily defoliated by unidentified sexava species.



Photo 2. Unidentified sexava species, showing short wings and long ovipositor. Note, that the length of the antennae are longer than the body of the insect.



Photo 3. Unidentified sexava species; note the long wings.



Photo 4. Numerous adults of unknown sexava species, and damage to oil palm leaves.



Photo 5. Damage to oil palm and banana by sexava in Papua New Guinea.



Photo 6. Oil palm in Papua New Guinea stripped of leaflets by sexava attack.



Photo 8. Sexava damage to banana in Papua New Guinea, by unknown sexava species.



Photo 7. Damage to banana in Papua New Guinea by unknown sexava species.

Summary

- Narrow distribution. Indonesia, Oceania. On coconut, nipa, oil palm and sago; other plants attacked are banana, *Heliconia*, *Pandanus*, *Ravenala* (traveller's palm), and sugarcane. Occasionally, severe outbreaks occur.
- Eggs, mostly in soil; nymphs green or brown, adults 50-60 mm, antennae longer than body; either short or long wings; female with long ovipositor; flight poor; disperse by running or jumping.
- Outbreaks occur after droughts. The treehoppers feed at night, eating flowers, fruits, and leaves to the midrib.
- Natural enemies: parasitoid wasps are known.
- Cultural control: sticky bands or rake soil to expose eggs, but neither method seems practical.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

Common Name

Coconut treehopper, long-horned grasshopper. They are also known as katydids or bush crickets.

Scientific Name

Sexava is the name given to a number of species of long-horned grasshoppers belonging to several genera: *Segestes*, *Segestidea* and *Sexava*. Those recorded in Papua New Guinea on coconuts are: *Sexava nubila*, *Segestes decoratus*, *Segestidia leefmansi*, *Segestidia rufipalpis*, *Segestidia uniformis*, *Segestidia defoliaria*, *Segestidia novaeguineae*, and oil palm: *Segestes decoratus*, *Segestidia defoliaria*, *Segestidea novaeguineae*. *Sexava* species are recorded from Solomon Islands.

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Information from Young GR (2001) A review of sexava research and control methods in Papua New Guinea. In: *Proceedings of the sixth workshop for the tropical agricultural entomologists*. Technical Bulletin No. 288, 1998. Darwin. Photos 1-7 Richard Markham, ACIAR, Canberra.

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