



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Coffee rust (141)

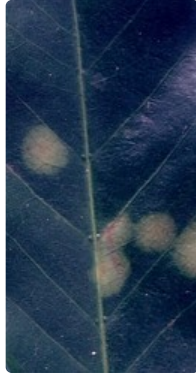


Photo 1. Young yellowish leaf spots, 3-5 mm diameter, of coffee rust, *Hemileia vastatrix*, on the upper surface of a coffee leaf mostly between the veins. Some of the spots are starting to merge.

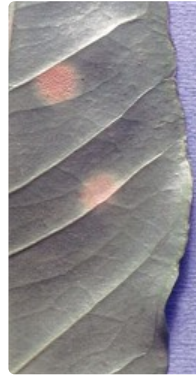


Photo 2. Yellow-orange spots on the underside of a coffee leaf caused by coffee rust, *Hemileia vastatrix*. The spots have started to form powdery spores.



Photo 3. Close-up of the powdery spore masses of coffee rust, *Hemileia vastatrix*, on the underside of a coffee leaf at a late stage of infection when many of the spots have merged.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On arabica and robusta coffee. An important disease.
- Spots, 2-3 mm, expanding to 15 mm, with yellow-orange powdery blotches on underside. Later, spots on top turn brown with yellow halos. Leaves may fall and shoots dieback. Over-bearing dieback may occur if rust epidemics occurs on high-yielding trees. Food reserves from the tree are diverted to the berries and stem dieback results.
- Spores spread by wind and insects, but need water to germinate. Possibly, new strain in Central America.
- Cultural control: critical factors are: spacing; soil nutrition; shade; resistant varieties (e.g., catimor).
- Chemical control: copper (protectant); triazoles (systemic). Usually, not needed above 1700 m.

Common Name

Coffee leaf rust

Scientific Name

Hemileia vastatrix

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Information (and Photos 1&2) from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany. Photo 3 Kohler F, Pellegrin F, Jackson G, McKenzie E (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia.

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This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

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