



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

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### Cowpea aphid (356)



Photo 1. Colonies of the cowpea aphid, *Aphis craccivora*.



Photo 2. Adult cowpea aphid, *Aphis craccivora*.

#### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. Common among Pacific island countries on food legumes.
- Nymphs slate grey, adults shiny brown or black. In tropics, young born alive. Overcrowding produces winged adults. Spread on the wing and on wind currents.
- Damage severe if infestations early: i) directly by sap-sucking adults and nymphs damaging shoots, pods and causing stunting (toxins are produced) or wilting, or ii) indirectly spreading (more than 30) viruses and production of honeydew attracting sooty moulds.
- Natural enemies: ladybird beetles, lacewings, hoverflies; parasitoid wasps, e.g., *Trioxys indicus*.
- Cultural control: avoid planting next to, or down-wind from infested crops; weed (especially wild legume hosts); remove infested leaves; destroy ant colonies with boiling water (or insecticides); collect and destroy debris after harvest.
- Chemical control: i) PDPs (derris, chilli, garlic, neem, pyrethrum); ii) soap solution, horticultural or white oils (**see Fact Sheet no. 56**). Preserve natural enemies, avoid broad-spectrum insecticides. Only use e.g., synthetic pyrethroids to kill ants.

#### Common Name

Cowpea aphid, groundnut aphid, bean aphid, black legume aphid.

#### Scientific Name

*Aphis craccivora*

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Information from CABI *Aphis craccivora* (groundnut aphid) (2017) Crop Protection Compendium. ([www.cabi.org/cpc](http://www.cabi.org/cpc)); and *Aphis craccivora* Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aphis\\_craccivora](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aphis_craccivora)); and from Godfrey LD, *et al.* (2017) Alfalfa Cowpea Aphid UC/IPM. Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of California. (<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/r1301511.html>). Photo1 Mani Mua, SPC, Sigatoka Research Station, Fiji. Photo 2 Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org.

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

