



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Cryptolaemus montrouzieri (395)

Relates to: **Biocontrol**



Photo 1. Larva of the mealybug ladybird, *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*, showing long, white, waxy filaments.



Photo 2. Larva of the mealybug ladybird, *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*, feeding on spiralling whitefly on guava.



Photo 3. Adult mealybug ladybird, *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*, and its prey.



Photo 4. Larva of the mealybug ladybird, *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*, avoiding contact with a white-footed ant.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. The 'mealybug destroyer'. In Oceania, Australia (native), Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea. Available commercially. Preys on scales, mealybugs and aphids.
- Eggs laid near prey, larvae with yellowish grey bodies and waxy threads, orange-brown heads and black wing cases. Covered in fine white hairs.
- Important biocontrol beetle.
- Natural enemies: wasps, spiders, birds, and ants.
- Biosecurity: need to assess risk before introduction as it is a generalist.
- Cultural control: hot water to kill ants: 47°C (note, 49°C kills plants).
- Management: (i) move adults and larvae to colonies of pests; (ii) use sleeve cages to protect populations initially; (iii) avoid use of organophosphates, carbamates and synthetic pyrethroids; (iv) control ants: a) stomach poisons (fipronil, Amdro borax), b) growth regulators (methoprene, pyriproxyfen), c) nerve poisons (bifenthrin, fipronil, imidacloprid). See (<http://piat.org.nz/getting-rid-of-ants>).

Common Name

Mealybug ladybird, also known by the nickname 'mealybug destroyer'. In Oceania, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, New Caledonia,

Papua New Guinea.

Scientific Name

Cryptolaemus montrouzieri

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Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London; and Martin NA (2016, revised 2018) Mealybug ladybird - *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*. (<https://nzfact sheets.landcareresearch.co.nz/factsheet/InterestingInsects/Mealybug-ladybird---Cryptolaemus-montrouzieri.html>); and *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*. Wikipedia. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cryptolaemus_montrouzieri); and *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* (mealybug destroyer). CABI Invasive Species Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/16393>); and from Pacific Invasive Ant Toolkit. (<http://piat.org.nz/getting-rid-of-ants>). Photo 1 Sonya Broughton, Department of Agriculture & Food Western Australia, Bugwood.org. Photo 2 David Cappaert, Bugwood.org. Photo 4 Randy Thaman, University of the South Pacific, Fiji.

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

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