



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Eggplant 28-spot ladybird beetle (058)



Photo 1. Adults and larvae of 28-spotted ladybird beetles, *Epilachna* species.



Photo 2. Larvae of ladybird beetles, possibly, *Epilachna signatipennis*, stripping the leaf surface of yard long bean.



Photo 3. Grazing and small holes in eggplant leaves caused by the 28-spotted ladybird beetle, *Epilachna* species.



Photo 4. Holes on leaves of eggplant made by adult eggplant or 28-spotted ladybird beetle, *Epilachna* species.



Photo 5. Larvae of eggplant or 28-spotted ladybird beetles, *Epilachna* species, grazing on eggplant, whereas the adults chew through, making large holes.



Photo 6. 28-spotted ladybird beetle, *Epilachna* species, on potato.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Asia, South America, Oceania. Different types feed on eggplant, beans, cucumber, maize, weeds.
- Eggs in groups of 10-20 on underside of leaves. Larvae graze underside of leaves; adults feed on both sides, often making holes. Adults with stiff hairs on upper surface, unlike beneficial ladybird beetles.

- Natural enemies: parasitoid wasps.
- Cultural control: avoid planting near older infected crops; hand pick larvae if number is small; weed; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: use wood ash mixed with lime (50:50); PDPs: chilli, derris, neem, or pyrethrum; or synthetic pyrethroids, but likely to kill natural enemies.

Common Name

28-spotted ladybird beetles

Scientific Name

Epilachna (*Henosepilachna*) species. Note, 28-spotted ladybird beetles are a complex of species. Note, too, the number of spots is variable, and cannot be used to identify ladybird beetles. Waterhouse lists five species that are recorded from Oceania: *Epilachna vigintioctopunctata pardalis*; *Epilachna vigintisexpunctata*; *Epilachna vigintisexpunctata doryca*; *Epilachna cucurbitae*; and *Epilachna guttatopustulata*.

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Information from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press. Assistance; and from Wilco Liebrechts, Eco-Consult Pacific, Fiji. Photo 1 Gerald McCormack, Cook Islands Biodiversity & Natural Heritage. (<http://cookislands.bishopmuseum.org>). Photos 2&4 Graham Teakle, Canberra.

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