



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Fig rust (307)



Photo 1. Pustules on the underside of a breadfruit leaf, caused by fig rust, *Cerotelium fici*.



Photo 2. Top surface of a breadfruit leaf showing dark angular spots caused by the fig rust, *Cerotelium fici*.



Photo 3. Fig tree partly defoliated by the fig rust fungus, *Cerotelium fici*.



Photo 4. Fig tree infected by the fig rust fungus, *Cerotelium fici* causing premature leaf fall.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. On figs (*Ficus* species), but also breadfruit. When severe, causes defoliation and young fruit fail to ripen.
- Yellow spots on top of leaves, raised pustules below, reddish-brown, circular, 0.5 mm diameter. Spots may merge, and leaves may fall. Sometimes spots on fruit.
- Spread by spore splash from one leaf to another, or between plants; over long distances, by wind.
- Cultural control: prune to improve air movement, and drying of leaves; avoid overhead irrigation; avoid planting under shade; weed; avoid areas that flood or where there is free-standing water; provide adequate nutrition; test varieties (e.g., breadfruit).
- Chemical control: use copper or mancozeb.

Common Name

Fig rust

Scientific Name

Cerotelium fici; previously known as *Kuehmeola fici*, and *Uredo fici*.

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Information from Verga A, Nelson S (2014) *Fig rust in Hawaii*. College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu. Photos 1-4 (taken by Eric McKenzie), and used in this fact sheet, appeared previously in McKenzie E (2013) *Cerotelium fici* PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>).

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