



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Hibiscus flower-eating beetle (400)

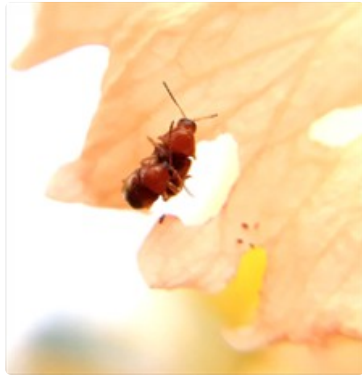


Photo 1. Holes in leaf caused by the hibiscus flower-eating beetle; Note, 'male-gating'.

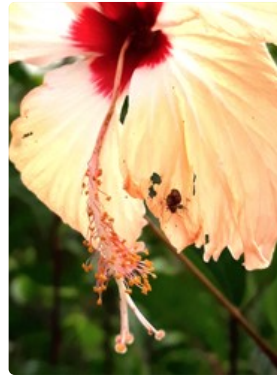


Photo 2. Holes in leaf caused by the hibiscus flower-eating beetle, and 'male-gating'.



Photo 3. More extensive damage by the hibiscus flower-eating beetle.

Summary

- Narrow distribution. Probably native of Fiji. Hosts are hibiscus, and members of the myrtle family, including *Eucalyptus*, *Melaleuca*, and *Eugenia*.
- Damage done by adults chewing the flowers.
- Eggs coated with faeces drop to the ground. Larvae take very long time to emerge; they live in a case of their own faeces, are nocturnal and feed on dead leaves and bark, but maybe part-time on living plants. Adults with brown head and black forewings. Often seen 'male-gating' (male on female preventing access to others).
- Cultural control: hand-pick, checking both night and day.
- Chemical control: unlikely to be needed, but if they are try biorational first: neem, pyrethrum or chilli.

Common Name

Hibiscus flower-eating beetle

Scientific Name

Genus and species unknown. A chrysomelid beetle of the subfamily Cryptocephalinae.

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

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

