



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

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### Maize aphid (330)



Photo 1. Colonies of the maize aphid, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, on the tassels of maize.



Photo 2. Maize aphids, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*,



Photo 3. Adult maize aphid, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*,



Photo 4. Colony of maize aphid, *Rhopalosiphum maidis*, with numerous 'mummies', swollen parasitised individuals. The papery skin of some has collapsed after the exist of the parasitoid.

### Summary

- Widespread distribution. Maize, sorghum, barley, millet, and many grasses. Rarely important in Pacific islands.
- Damage: i) feeds on sap causing distortions and wilts; ii) produces honeydew leading to sooty moulds on leaves, and prevents release of pollen (maize); iii) spreads viruses - but not in Pacific islands.
- Females produce living young without mating; nymphs light green, becoming bluish or olive green adults, up to 2 mm long, rectangular; base of conicles (upright tubes) purple.
- Winged forms when populations large. Spread also in wind currents.
- Natural enemies: ladybird beetles and parasitoid wasps (*Aphelinus*, *Lysiphlebus*).
- Cultural control: plant far from old infested crops, hot water to kill ants; weed; collect and destroy debris after harvest; tolerant varieties (maize, sorghum).
- Chemical control: PDPs (chilli, derris, neem, pyrethrum); soap, white or horticultural oils; synthetic pyrethroids will kill predators and parasitoids (but useful against ants).

### Common Name

Maize aphid, corn leaf aphid, green corn aphid

### Scientific Name

*Rhopalosiphum maidis*

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Information from CAB International (2015) *Rhopalosiphum maidis* (green corn aphid) Crop Protection Compendium. ([www.cabi.org/cpc](http://www.cabi.org/cpc)); and *Rhopalosiphum maidis* (Fitch) (1992) Crop Knowledge Master Department of Entomology, Honolulu, Hawaii. (<http://www.extento.hawaii.edu/kbase/crop/type/rhopalos.htm>). Photo 1 Eric Burkness, Bugwood.org. Photo 2 Kansas Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org. Photo 3 Brendan Wray, PhD, USDA APHIS/TP, Bugwood.org.

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