



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

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### Malay apple gall psyllid (366)



Photo 1. Galls on uppersurface of leaves of *Syzgium malaccense*, caused by *Trioza vitiensis*.



Photo 2. Heavy incidence of galls on uppersurface of leaves of young *Syzgium malaccense* plants, caused by *Trioza vitiensis*.



Photo 3. Close-up of galls on uppersurface of leaves of *Syzgium malaccense*, caused by *Trioza vitiensis*.



Photo 4. Close-up of galls on uppersurface of leaves of *Syzgium malaccense*, caused by *Trioza vitiensis*.

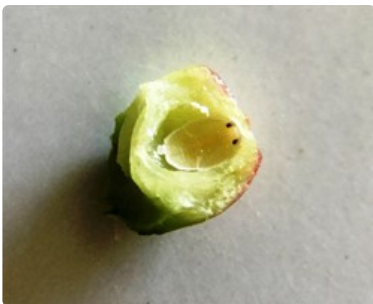


Photo 5. Nymph of *Trioza vitiensis*, in the 'cup' of a gall on the underside of a leaf of *Syzgium malaccense*.



Photo 6. Galls on underside of leaves of *Syzgium malaccense*, caused by *Trioza vitiensis*, from which adults have emerged.



Photo 7. Nymph of *Trioza vitiensis*, removed from a gall on the leaf of *Syzygium malaccense*. Note the obvious eyes and the fringe of short white hairs around the body.



Photo 8. Adult (and nymph) of *Trioza vitiensis*, removed from a gall on the leaf of *Syzygium malaccense*. Note the prominent wing veins of the adult.

## Summary

- Restricted distribution. South and Southeast Asia, Oceania. Present in Fiji, FSM, French Polynesia, Samoa.
- Cosmetic problem on mature trees; may set back seedling growth. Eggs laid on new leaves and shoots. Nymphs suck sap from underside of leaf injecting a toxin. Galls form around the nymphs. Adults emerge from gall, 2 mm long, winged with dark veins.
- Spread in wind, and plants in horticultural trade.
- Natural enemies: ladybird beetles, lacewing larvae. Possibly, parasitoid wasps.
- Cultural control: prune plants in nurseries or trees used as hedges (then apply insecticides).
- Chemical control: synthetic pyrethroid, malathion to protect new growth. Imidacloprid not recommended because of effect on bees (unless used outside time of flowering).

## Common Name

Leaf gall psyllid, Eugenia psyllid, Malay apple gall psyllid, rose apple psyllid. Psyllids are often referred to as "jumping lice".

## Scientific Name

*Trioza vitiensis*; previously, known as *Metatrioza vitiensis*.

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Information from Hodkinson ID The biology and ecology of the gall-forming Psylloidea (Homoptera). In: TN Ananthakrishnan *Biology of gall insects*. Oxford University Press. ([https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270284681\\_The\\_biology\\_and\\_ecology\\_of\\_the\\_gall-forming\\_Psylloidea\\_Homoptera](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270284681_The_biology_and_ecology_of_the_gall-forming_Psylloidea_Homoptera)); and Au S (2013) Succession in galls on *Syzygium malaccense* and their impact on leaf aging. UC Berkeley. (<https://cloudfront.escholarship.org/dist/prd/content/qt847704sb/qt847704sb.pdf>); and from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. London. Photos 3&8 Gerald McCormack & Maja Poeschko, Cook Islands Biodiversity & Natural Heritage. (<http://cookislands.bishopmuseum.org>).

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project HORT/2016/185: *Responding to emerging pest and disease threats to horticulture in the Pacific islands*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

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



