



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Malay (rose) apple leafminer (371)



Photo 1. Damage to leaf surface of Malay apple, caused by the leaf miner, *Acrocercops patellata*. Note, on the right side of the leaf the damage is between the veins



Photo 2. Damage to leaf surface of Malay apple, caused by the leaf miner, *Acrocercops patellata*.



Photo 3. Adult moth of the leafminer, *Acrocercops patellata*, showing distinctive colour of the forewings.



Photo 4. Pupa of the Malay apple leafminer, *Acrocercops patellata*.



Photo 5. Pupa of the Malay apple leafminer, *Acrocercops patellata*, with moth emerging.

Summary

- Unknown distribution. Recorded from Papua province (Irian Jaya), Indonesia and Fiji. Only found on Malay (rose) apple.
- Damage done by larvae mining the leaves, often between the veins, causing them to shrivel and die. Only a few leaves affected on any one tree.
- Adults are small moths with distinctive white semicircular spots on forewings; hindwings fringed. Antennae longer than body.
- Spread occurs in the wing and via the trade in plants.
- Cultural control: squash larvae in tunnels between finger and thumb; removed infested leaves and burn.
- Chemical control: possibly needed in nurseries. Use systemic imidacloprid, or synthetic pyrethroid.

Common Name

Malay (or rose) apple leafminer; there is no accepted common name for this leafminer blotch moth.

Scientific Name

Acrocercops patellata. It is a moth of the Gracillariidae.

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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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