



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

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### Melon thrips (106)



Photo 1. Warty scarring at the calyx end of the chilli fruit caused by *Thrips palmi*, while the fruit was still in the bud.

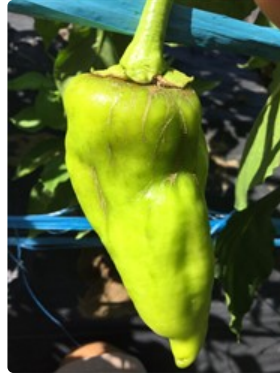


Photo 2. Faint lines of scarring down the chilli fruit from the calyx end caused by *Thrips palmi*, while the fruit was still in the bud.



Photo 3. Typical scarring caused by *Thrips palmi* on capsicum fruit while it was still in the bud.



Photo 4. Scars on the surface of an eggplant fruit due to feeding of thrips, *Thrips palmi*, when the fruit was young.



Photo 5. Adult thrips, *Thrips palmi*, are about 1 mm long, narrow, yellow with two pairs of wings.

### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. A problem of many plant families - cabbages, cucumber, legume, potato, ornamentals, and weeds.
- Feed on undersides of leaves, which become silvery or brown, and curl. Feeding on fruit when it is young produces scars when the fruit expands.
- Spreads viruses, e.g., *Tomato spotted wilt virus* is widespread and important (not reported from Pacific island countries).

- Cultural control: avoid planting near older crops; nurseries far from production areas and/or use thrips-proof netting; weed before planting; at harvest, collect trash and burn. For the control of TSWV use resistant varieties.
- Chemical control: use soaps, oils, neem, or spinosad.

## Common Name

Melon thrips

## Scientific Name

*Thrips palmi* (but note, no species of palms are host!).

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Information from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press. Photo 1 Gayot J, INRA, Pointe-a-Pitre, Bugwood.org. Photo 2 Plant Protection Service Archive, Plant Protection Service, Bugwood.org.

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

