



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Oil palm genetic orange spotting (205)



Photo 1. Spots of genetic orange spotting on leaflets of increasing age, left to right, caused by *Oil palm orange spotting viroid*.



Photo 2. Genetic orange spotting on oil palm., caused by *Oil palm orange spotting viroid*.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. On oil palms, but the viroid is related to *Coconut cadang-cadang viroid* and *Coconut tinangaja viroid* of coconuts. Wherever oil palms are grown. Of minor importance; sometimes 1-2% after 3 years.
- Of interest because *Coconut cadang-cadang viroid* of coconut causes the spotting disease in oil palm, and the spotting viroid of oil palm causes cadang-cadang in coconuts, a lethal disease.
- Spots 2-3 mm on all but the youngest leaves, palms stunted and bunches and nuts smaller than normal. Decline occurs over 20 years.
- Spread in seed, and perhaps when harvesting.
- Cultural control: remove palms when symptoms first seen.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

Common Name

Oil palm genetic orange spotting

Scientific Name

Oil palm orange spotting viroid, and its abbreviation is OOSVd. A viroid is a length of RNA, much smaller than the RNA of the smallest virus, and without a protein coat. OOSVd is closely related to a viroid in the Philippines, *Coconut cadang-cadang viroid* (CCCVd), which causes a lethal disease in coconuts and other palms.

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information (and Photos 1&2) Dagmar Hanold and John Randles, Waite Agricultural Research Institute, University of Adelaide, Glen Osmond, South Australia.

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