



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Rice green leafhopper (417)



Photo 1. Adult rice green leafhopper, *Nephotettix nigropictus*.



Photo 2. Adult rice green leafhoppers, *Nephotettix* sp. (Nepal).



Photo 3. Rice plant with symptoms of rice tungro disease.

Summary

- Restricted. Asia, Africa (Cameroon), Oceania. In Australia, Fiji, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea.
- A minor pest of lowland irrigated rice. Also on wild grasses and sedges. Sucks sap causing white patches on tillers, wilting and collapse ('hopperburn'); indirect damage from spreading rice tungro viruses. Note, these viruses NOT in Pacific island countries; nearest country is Irian Jaya.
- Eggs laid into leaf blade or leaf sheath (groups up to 15); nymphs yellow turning light brown, then black; adults, green with two spots extending to tips of forewings, black tips to wings, and head with black bands. Not strong flyers. No large migrations.
- Natural enemies: usually under control by parasites and predators, e.g., *Cyrtorhinus lividipennis* (see **Fact Sheet no. 419**).
- Cultural control: isolate nurseries distant from fields preventing tungro virus infections; synchronise planting with neighbours, preventing overlap; create rice-free period so hoppers lose virus infections; transplant >3 week-old seedlings, delaying exposure to infection; do not apply excessive N; weed; check ratoon crops for tungro, and plough in stubble if tungro present; rotate with maize, soybean, peanut, or fallow.
- Chemical control: probably not required. If needed, use neem.

Common Name

Rice green leafhopper

Scientific Name

Nephotettix nigropictus; there are several other *Nephotettix* green leafhopper species that feed on rice, e.g., *Nephotettix malayanus* and *Nephotettix virescens*.

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Information from CABI Plantwise Knowledge Bank (<https://www.plantwise.org/KnowledgeBank/datasheet/36200>); and from Plant-sucking pests - green leafhoppers.

(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ricephotos/6676383521/in/photostream/>). Photo 1 *Nephotettix nigropictus* Natasha wright, Cook's Pest Control, Bugwod.org. Photo 2&3 Bhusal K *et al.* (2019) A review of rice Tungro virus in Nepal. Journal of Plant Sciences and Crop Protection. Volume 2(1).

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This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

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

