



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Sweetpotato leaf folder (028)



Photo 1. An unfolded leaf showing a caterpillar of *Psara hipponalis* which has made "windows" in the leaf by eating all but the waxy layer.



Photo 2. Folded leaves and holes made in sweetpotato leaves by *Psara hipponalis*.



Photo 3. Adult *Psara hipponalis*.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Asia, Africa, Oceania. On sweetpotato, the main host, but also on weeds. An important pest.
- Eggs laid on upper leaf surface; caterpillars, green with brown heads, fold the leaves, fastening edges with webbing. At first, they make 'windows' in the leaf; later, they make holes. Impact on yield unclear.
- Natural enemies: parasitoid wasps.
- Cultural control: plant far from infested crops, using healthy cuttings; weed, and remove 'volunteers' and wild *Ipomoea*; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: PDPs: neem, derris, pyrethrum, or chilli; biopesticides - spinosad and Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*); or synthetic pyrethroids, but these will kill natural enemies.

Common Name

Sweetpotato leaf folder, green leaf folder

Scientific Name

Psara hipponalis; previously, *Herpetogramma hipponalis*

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

