



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

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### Sweetpotato leafminer (341)



Photo 1. Larval mines of the sweetpotato leafminer, *Bedellia somnulentella*.



Photo 1. Adult sweetpotato leafminer, *Bedellia somnulentella*.



Photo 3. Adult sweetpotato leafminer, *Bedellia somnulentella*, showing the fringed fore and hindwings.

### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On sweet potato and related weeds. Usually, minor importance unless broad-spectrum insecticides used for e.g., sweet potato weevil control.
- Larvae make silvery, snake-like, mines filled with frass; later, blotches occur developing into holes.
- Eggs on leaves; larvae, up to 5.5 mm long, yellowish with pink spots along the back, developing into red, rounded, projections on all segments. Later, larvae exit the mines, living under silk threads on backs of leaves, and pupate. Adults, greyish brown, up to 4 mm long, 10 mm wingspan, fringed, with tufts of light yellow to brown hairs on the head.
- Natural enemies: usually under control by parasitoids (*Apanteles*).
- Cultural control: none recommended.
- Chemical control: none recommended. Insecticides will destroy the biological control.

### Common Name

Sweetpotato leaf miner, morning glory leafminer

### Scientific Name

*Bedellia somnulentella*; previously known as *Bedellia ipomoeae*.

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<sup>1</sup>Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. London; and Sweet potato leafminer (*Bedellia somnulentella*) Plantwise Knowledge Bank. (<http://www.plantwise.org/KnowledgeBank/Datasheet.aspx?dsid=8761>); and Sweetpotato Diagnoses *Bedellia somnulentella* (Zeller).

(<http://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/sweetpotato/key/Sweetpotato%20Diagnoses/Media/Html/TheProblems/Pest-LeafChewingInsects/LeafMiners/Leaf%20miner.htm>); and from Discover Life *Bedellia somnulentella* (Zeller 1847 Morning glory leafminer. (<http://www.discoverlife.org/mp/20q?search=Bedellia+sommulentella>)). Photo 1 Ben Smart *Bedellia somnulentella* UK Moths. (<http://www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/bedellia-sommulentella/mine/>). Photo 2 Mark Dreiling, Bugwood.org. Photo 3 *Bedellia somnulentella* Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bedellia\\_sommulentella](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bedellia_sommulentella)).

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

