



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

<https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ppp/>

Sweetpotato red leaf beetle (053)



Photo 1. Sweetpotato red leaf beetle, *Candezea palustris*.



Photo 2. Leaves eaten by sweetpotato red leaf beetle, *Candezea palustris*.



Photo 3. Only the veins remain on many leaves damaged by the sweetpotato red leaf beetle, *Candezea palustris*.



Photo 4. Leaves eaten by sweetpotato red leaf beetle, *Candezea palustris*.



Photo 5. Severe damage on young sweetpotato by sweetpotato red leaf beetle, *Candezea palustris*.

Summary

- Narrow distribution. In parts of Oceania. On sweetpotato, kangkong, and other *Ipomoea* species.
- Eggs on underside of leaves, grubs feed on roots, and after pupation, adults (6 mm) emerge. If many, swarms may occur.
- Holes made in the leaves as the beetles feed. Young plants slow to grow, but effect on yield unknown. •
- Cultural control: do not plant new crops next to old infested ones; apply mulches, manures, fertilizer, water for rapid early growth; handpick early in day; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: PDPs: ash (or ash+lime in water), derris, pyrethrum, or chilli; or synthetic pyrethroids.

Common Name

Sweetpotato red leaf beetle, red sweetpotato beetle

Scientific Name

Candezea (Monolepta) species. There has been a recent revision of the genus, so previous records are now in doubt. However, *Candezea palustris* has been recorded from Solomon Islands.

AUTHORS Helen Tsatsia & Graeme Jackson
Information from Chris Reid, Australian Museum, Sydney.

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC/2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

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.

