



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Sweetpotato tortoise beetle (054)



Photo 1. Holes made by tortoise beetles, *Cassida* spp., in leaves of sweetpotato.



Photo 2. *Aspidimorpha deusta* on sweetpotato (Solomon Islands). It is also a common species on *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.



Photo 3. *Cassida papuana* on sweetpotato showing damage to leaf surface.



Photo 4. Above view of the tortoise beetle, *Cassida papuana*.



Photo 5. Underside of the tortoise beetle, *Cassida papuana*, showing the extended thorax and wing covers.



Photo 6. Tortoise beetle, *Cassida compuncta*, on silverbeet, Fiji. An introduction to Fiji - native to Queensland and New South Wales, Australia.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Asia and Oceania. On sweetpotato and others in morning glory family.
- Eggs laid singly on leaves; larvae with 'anal fork' of previous skins and faeces; pupate on leaves; adults (5 mm) round, golden, with broad wing margins.
- Holes made in leaves as beetles feed. Effect on root yield is unknown, but unlikely to be high.

- Natural enemies: parasitic wasp and predators.
- Cultural control: do not plant new crops next to old; apply mulches, manures, fertilizers, water for rapid early growth; weed; collect/burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: PDPs: ash (or ash plus lime in water), derris, pyrethrum, or chilli; or synthetic pyrethroids, but likely to kill natural enemies.

Common Name

Sweetpotato tortoise beetle

Scientific Name

Cassida and *Aspidimorpha* species.

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Photo 2 Graham Teakle, Canberra. Information from Chris Reid, Australian Museum, Sydney. Photo 6 Mani Mua

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

