Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Sweetpotato virus G (374)

Photo 1. Appearance of sweet potato virus-G on the indicator plant, *Ipomoea setosa*. Symptoms on sweet potato varieties are rare in the field.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. Present in several Pacific island countries. Only found in sweet potato. The abbreviation is SPVG. It is a potyvirus.
- Damage: on its own no symptoms and probably little impact on yield; with other viruses, e.g., *Sweetpotato feathery mottle* (and perhaps *Sweetpotato chlorotic stunt virus*), SPVG multiplies many times normal resulting in lower yields.
- Detection: grafting to *Ipomoea setosa*, or using ELISA and/or PCR.
- Natural enemies: there are many parasitoids and predators of aphids, but aphids are not commonly seen on sweet potato in Pacific island countries, so their effect is probably small.
- Spread by aphids, infected cuttings and storage roots.
- Cultural control: use planting material from healthy 'seed' scheme (i.e., mother plants regrown from meristems after heat treatments and tested negatively for SPVG.
- Chemical control: Not a method to use as insecticides cannot kill the aphids before they have transferred the virus.

Common Name

Sweet potato virus G.

Scientific Name

Sweetpotato virus G; previously it was known as C8 virus. The abbreviation is SPVG. Different strains of SPVG are reported. The virus particles are flexus rods.

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Information from Dennien *et al.* (2013) Growing healthy sweetpotato: best practices for producing planting material. ACIAR Monograph no. 153. Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research: Canberra. 176 pp. Photo 1 Segundo Fuentes. International Potato Center, Peru.

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