



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

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## Taro egg-sucking bug (399)

Relates to: **Biocontrol**



Photo 1. Egg-sucking bug, *Cyrtothrinus fulvus*, surrounded by wingless *Tarophagus proserpina*.



Photo 2. *Cyrtothrinus cumberi* to show general characteristics of the genus.

### Summary

- Narrow distribution. Southeast Asia, Oceania. Present in most Pacific island countries. Many introductions. Preys on eggs of *Tarophagus* species, the taro planthopper.
- Nymphs and adults suck the eggs of *Tarophagus*. Adult with black antennae, head, pronotum (the area behind the head); wings and legs are orange. Nymphs similar but without wings.
- Eggs are laid into the leaf or into the collapsed eggs of the planthopper. Spread on the wing and in planting material.
- Effective control reported from some countries, but often in dry times there are high populations of both bug and planthopper. Not sufficient for control of viruses diseases.
- Biosecurity: need to assess risk before introduction even though it is probably specific to *Tarophagus*.
- Avoid use of organophosphates, carbamates and synthetic pyrethroids if *Cyrtothrinus* present, or leave at least 4 weeks between their use and release of bug.

### Common Name

Egg-sucking bug

### Scientific Name

*Cyrtothrinus fulvus*

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AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press; and Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. London; and from CABI (2018) *Cyrtothrinus fulvus*. Crop Protection Compendium. ([www.cabi.org/cpc](http://www.cabi.org/cpc)). Photo 2 Woodward TE (1950) *Cyrtothrinus cumberi* Woodward 1950. Auckland War Memorial Museum. New Zealand. ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cyrtothrinus\\_cumberi\\_Woodward\\_1950\\_\(AM\\_AMNZ21727-1\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cyrtothrinus_cumberi_Woodward_1950_(AM_AMNZ21727-1).jpg)).

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