

Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

Man-faced stink bug (404)

Common Name

Man-faced stink bug; also referred to as the Hitler bug.

Scientific Name

Catantopus incarnatus; also know by the name, *Catantopus nigripes*. Another species, *Catantopus punctus*, has been recorded from Fiji (Photo 6).

Distribution

Africa (Madagascar), South and Southeast Asia, Oceania. It is recorded from New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea.

Hosts

Cashew, ornamentals (e.g., *Ixora*), and forest trees e.g., *Gmelina arborea*, *Delonix regia* (royal poinciana) and *Olea* (olive) and *Glochidion species*.

Symptoms & Life Cycle

The adults and nymphs (Photos 1-3) do the damage by sucking the sap of young shoots, damaging leaves and causing fruits to rot from secondary invasions of microorganisms.

Eggs are laid in large numbers on leaves (Photo 4), and hatch to black and white wingless nymphs (Photo 3). Adult colour is variable. There are four types: cream, orange, red and yellow, each with two pairs of large black spots on the top of the bug: one pair is on the triangular area behind the head (scutellum); and the other pair on the forewings (Photo 1). Dark patches also occur at the tips of the forewings. It is thought that these bold colours send a signal to potential predators that the bug is poisonous, not tasty, or perhaps they just mislead predators.

Stink bugs produce an aggregate pheromone that results in the bugs massing together (Photo 5). In India, large number occur on *Ixora*, and there are reports of 400-500 bugs on a branch of *Delonix regia*, and 300 on a single cashew tree.

Impact

India has reported extensive damage to cashew with 6-9 bugs on a fruit stalk, and lower yields due to infestations of the bug.

Detection & inspection

Look for the very distinctive colours of the bug, and especially the two sets of paired spots on the scutellum and forewings.



Photo 1. Adult, man-faced stink bug, *Catantopus incarnatus*. Note, there are cream, orange and yellow types too.



Photo 2. Adult, man-faced stink bug, *Catantopus incarnatus*, mating.



Photo 3. Nymphs of the man-faced stink bug, *Catantopus incarnatus*.



Photo 4. Eggs of the man-faced stink bug, *Catantopus incarnatus*.

Management

NATURAL ENEMIES

It is likely that the parasitoid wasp, *Trissolcus basalis*, that has successfully controlled the green vegetable bug, *Nezara viridula* (**see Fact Sheet no. 98**), will control other stink bugs. This egg parasitoid has been introduced into Australia on several occasions from different parts of the world, into Cook Islands, Hawaii, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, generally with positive results. However, Waterhouse & Norris (1987) suggest where it is present but ineffective, additional strains should be sought.

In many counties, ants are said to achieve high levels of biocontrol. One ant common in Pacific island countries - the big-headed ant (*Pheidole megacephala*) - is said to take the eggs and young nymphs to its nest.

CULTURAL CONTROL

Handpicking is a possibility on small shrubs (e.g., *Ixora*), but not large trees.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Catantopus incarnatus, like the stink bug *Nezara viridula*, is likely to be under control by natural enemies, and chemical control will not be needed, in fact it will destroy this control. However, if there are outbreaks, and chemical control is warranted, spray where the insects congregate, rather than the entire plant or tree canopy.

- Use plant-derived products, such as derris, pyrethrum or chilli (with the addition of soap).
- Note, a variety of *Derris*, brought many years ago to Solomon Islands from Papua New Guinea, is effective as a spray. It contains rotenone, an insecticide, so it should be used with caution. There may be varieties of *Derris* (fish poisons) in your country that can be tried (**see Fact Sheet no. 56**).
- Alternatively, use synthetic pyrethroids; they are likely to be effective, but will also kill natural enemies.

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval. **Recommendations will vary with the crop and system of cultivation. Expert advice on the most appropriate pesticide to use should always be sought from local agricultural authorities.**



Photo 5. Aggregating adult man-faced stink bug, *Catantopus incarnatus* (India).



Photo 6. Adult stink bug, *Catantopus punctus*, from Fiji.

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Information (and Photo 5) from Thite SV, Kore BA (2016) Mass occurrence of stink bug *Catantopus incarnatus* (Drury) on *Gmelina arborea* Roxb. in Satara, Maharashtra. *Zoo's Print* xxxi (5), 8-9; and Bhat PS, Sri Kumar KK (2013) Occurrence of man-faced stink bug, *Catantopus incarnatus* Drury on cashew in Puttur region of Karnataka. *Insect environment* 19(1), 32-34; and from (including Photo 4) Waghmare SH et al., A case of extensive congregation of man-faced stink bug *Catantopus incarnatus* (Drury) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) together with new host records from western Maharashtra, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 7(8), 7490-7492. Photos 1&2 Vijayanrajapuram. *Catantopus incarnatus* (Hitler Bug) mating. (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hitler_bugs_-_mating_01.jpg). Photo 3 Vinayara. *Catantopus incarnatus* - man-faced stink bug - nymph from Kannavam RF(6).jpg. ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Catantopus_incarnatus_-_Man-faced_Stink_Bug_-_nymph_from_Kannavam_RF_\(6\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Catantopus_incarnatus_-_Man-faced_Stink_Bug_-_nymph_from_Kannavam_RF_(6).jpg)). Photo 6 Nitya Singh, Research Officer-Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji.

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