

Bean bug (349)

Summary

- Widespread distribution. A pest of food and field legumes, especially cowpeas, and other *Vigna* species. Minor pest.
- Adults and nymphs suck pods causing pitting and shrivelling of seeds. Also, damage flowers and buds.
- Adults are 10-12 mm long, dull brown, narrow, almost parallel-sided, with cream stripe along the side, and prominent eyes. Nymphs are ant-like.
- Cultural control: plant far from already infested crops; handpick bugs where plots are small; destroy remains of plants after harvest.
- Chemical control: PDPs, e.g., derris, pyrethrum or chilli. If commercial products needed, use synthetic pyrethroids or malathion. Use products recommended against green vegetable bug (see **Fact Sheet no. 98**).

Common Name

Bean bug

Scientific Name

Melanacanthus margineguttatus; the brown bean bug (or small brown bean bug), *Melanacanthus scutellaris*, is similar. It also attacks pulses. (Note, there is little information on *Melanacanthus margineguttatus* in the literature, mostly reports are on *Melanacanthus scutellaris* - a species native to Australia.)



Photo 4. Adult small brown bean bug, *Melanacanthus scutellaris*, male.



Photo 1. Adult bean bug, *Melanacanthus margineguttatus*, showing the large eyes, spines on the leg, and cream stripe down the sides.



Photo 2. Adult small brown bean bug, *Melanacanthus scutellaris*, showing cream stripe alongside the body.



Photo 3. Adult small brown bean bug, *Melanacanthus scutellaris*, female. The stripe along the body is less obvious.

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¹Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London; and DAF (2020) Brown bean bug. Business Queensland, Queensland Government. (<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/crop-growing/pests-field-crops/brown-bean-bug>); and from McCaffrey S (2011) (*Melanacanthus nr. scutellaris*): PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>. Photo 1. Coreoidea species file online. *Melanacanthus margineguttatus* Distant. The Leverhulme Trust. (<http://coreoidea.speciesfile.org/Common/basic/Taxa.aspx?TaxonNameID=1186292>). Photos 2&3 The Beatsheet. Insect Pest Management for Australia's Northern Region. (<http://thebeatsheet.com.au/resources/insect-identification/podsucking-bugs/bbsm/>). Photo 3 *Melanacanthus scutellaris* (14528939742).jpg Wikimedia Common. ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Melanacanthus_scutellaris_\(14528939742\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Melanacanthus_scutellaris_(14528939742).jpg)).

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