

## Bean (cowpea) fly (291)

### Summary

- Worldwide. Sub-tropics and tropics. On beans of many kinds - *Vigna*, *Phaseolus*, and weeds.
- Eggs in seedling leaves hatch, and larvae tunnel to the midrib, then to the petiole and lower stem.
- Plants wilt, are stunted, or may fail to yield.
- Natural enemies: parasitoid wasps.
- Cultural control: remove volunteers and weeds; avoid overlapping crops; hill-up 2-3 weeks after germination (damage stimulates roots) ; mulch to encourage root formation; tolerant varieties.
- Chemical control: commercial growers – treat seed (e.g., imidacloprid); or spray plants (dimethoate).

### Common Name

Bean fly

### Scientific Name

*Ophiomyia phaseoli*; previously *Melanagromyza phaseoli*.

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Information from CABI (2015) *Ophiomyia phaseoli* (bean fly). Crop Protection Compendium (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/33002>); and from DAF (2018) Bean fly. Business Queensland. Queensland Government. (<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/crop-growing/pests-field-crops/bean-fly>). Photos 1&2 Shepard M *et al.* Insects and their natural enemies associated with vegetables and soybean in Southeast Asia, Bugwood.org. Photo 3 Shane McEvey, Australian Museum (*Phyiomyia* sp., Townsville, Queensland).

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Photo 1. Bean seedlings are most susceptible to the bean fly, *Ophiomyia phaseoli*, at the 1-3-leaf stage.



Photo 2. Adult bean fly, *Ophiomyia phaseoli*.



Photo 3. Details of the adult bean fly, *Ophiomyia* sp.



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