

Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

Bele (Abelmoschus) leafminer (256)

Summary

- World distribution unknown. On *bele* (*aibika*, *sliperi kabis*, island cabbage, *Abelmoschus manihot*), and other members of the Hibiscus family, including the cultivated *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* and the wild *Hibiscus tiliaceus*. An important pest.
- Mines caused by a moth larva making leaves inedible. Mines occur alongside veins, causing paper-thin, silvery, bronzed shiny areas.
- Cultural control: squash the mines by hand if numbers are small; if numerous, remove affected leaves and burn; do not plant next to infested gardens; after last harvest, pull out and burn the plants.
- Chemical control: use soap, white or horticultural oils; use PDPs (with soap): chilli, derris, pyrethrum, or neem; use synthetic pyrethroids, or systemic products, e.g., acephate or imidacloprid, but they are more likely to kill natural enemies.

Common Name

There is no common name. Here it is called *bele* leafminer.

Scientific Name

Acrocercops panall, a member of the Gracillariidae family. *Acrocercops cathedrae* is recorded from Papua New Guinea¹.



Photo 1. Mines and adjacent damage along veins covering most of the leaves of *bele* caused by the bele leaf miner, *Acrocercops* sp.



Photo 2. Extensive damage caused by the bele leaf miner, *Acrocercops* sp.



Photo 4. Adult bele leafminers, *Acrocercops patellata*, and pupa derived from mines on Malay apple, *Syzygium malaccense*.



Photo 3. Adult bele leafminers, *Acrocercops patellata* bred from *bele*, *Abelmoschus manihot*.

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¹Preston SR (1998) Aibika/Bele. *Abelmoschus manihot* (L.) Medik. Promoting the conservation and use of underutilized and neglected crops. 24. Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research, Gatersleben/International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome; and ²Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. London, HMSO.

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