

## Coconut Finschhafen disorder (280)

### Summary

- Narrow distribution. In Papua New Guinea only. On coconut, oil palm and betel nut. A major disorder of coconut and a threat to oil palm. Caused by the feeding of a planthopper.
- Eggs are laid on leaves and petioles. Adults, 16-18 mm, with distinctive wing spots.
- The feeding of the planthopper causes premature ageing of older leaves, starting at the tips, moving towards the petioles, followed by death. The symptoms gradually spread upwards. Nuts fall. Spread in plantations is slow and patchy.
- Natural enemies: wasp parasitoids.
- Cultural control: tolerant varieties are unknown.
- Chemical control: use synthetic pyrethroids, but whether this is economic is not known.

### Common Name

Finschhafen disorder

### Scientific Name

The disorder is caused by the feeding of the leafhopper, *Zophiuma butawengi* (previously *Zophiuma lobulata*).



Photo 1. Symptoms of Finschhafen disorder on an oil palm leaf.



Photo 2. Adult planthopper *Zophiuma butawengi*: side view.



Photo 3. Adult planthopper, *Zophiuma butawengi*, showing the characteristic patterns on the wings.



Map. Locations in Papua New Guinea where there have been outbreaks of the Finschhafen disorder.

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Information from Gitau CW, et al. (2011) *Zophiuma lobulata* (Hemiptera: Lophopidae) causes Finschhafen disorder of coconut and oil palms. *Annals of Applied Biology* 158:139-148; and (including map) Woruba DN, et al. (2014) Entomopathogenic fungi of the oil palm pest, *Zophiuma butawengi* (Fulgoroidea: Lophopidae), and potential for use as biological control agents. *Austral Entomology* 53:268-274.

[https://www.academia.edu/11711849/Entomopathogenic\\_fungi\\_of\\_the\\_oil\\_palm\\_pest\\_Zophiuma\\_butawengi\\_Fulgoroidea\\_Lophopidae\\_and\\_potential\\_for\\_use\\_as\\_biological\\_control\\_agents](https://www.academia.edu/11711849/Entomopathogenic_fungi_of_the_oil_palm_pest_Zophiuma_butawengi_Fulgoroidea_Lophopidae_and_potential_for_use_as_biological_control_agents). Photos 1-3 Ken Walker (2011) Lophopid Planthopper (*Zophiuma butawengi*). (PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>)).

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