

## Rice green leafhopper (417)

### Summary

- Restricted. Asia, Africa (Cameroon), Oceania. In Australia, Fiji, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea.
- A minor pest of lowland irrigated rice. Also on wild grasses and sedges. Sucks sap causing white patches on tillers, wilting and collapse ('hopperburn'); indirect damage from spreading rice tungro viruses. Note, these viruses NOT in Pacific island countries; nearest country is Irian Jaya.
- Eggs laid into leaf blade or leaf sheath (groups up to 15); nymphs yellow turning light brown, then black; adults, green with two spots extending to tips of forewings, black tips to wings, and head with black bands. Not strong flyers. No large migrations.
- Natural enemies: usually under control by parasites and predators, e.g., *Cyrtorhinus lividipennis* (**see Fact Sheet no. 419**).
- Cultural control: isolate nurseries distant from fields preventing tungro virus infections; synchronise planting with neighbours, preventing overlap; create rice-free period so hoppers lose virus infections; transplant >3 week-old seedlings, delaying exposure to infection; do not apply excessive N; weed; check ratoon crops for tungro, and plough in stubble if tungro present; rotate with maize, soybean, peanut, or fallow.
- Chemical control: probably not required. If needed, use neem.

### Common Name

Rice green leafhopper

### Scientific Name

*Nephotettix nigropictus*; there are several other *Nephotettix* green leafhopper species that feed on rice, e.g., *Nephotettix malayanus* and *Nephotettix virescens*.

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from CABI Plantwise Knowledge Bank (<https://www.plantwise.org/KnowledgeBank/datasheet/36200>); and Plant-sucking pests - green leafhoppers. (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ricephotos/6676383521/in/photostream/>); and from Catindig J (undated) Rice leafhopper, Green leafhopper. Rice Knowledge Bank. IRRI. (<http://www.knowledgebank.irri.org/training/fact-sheets/pest-management/insects/item/green-leafhopper>). Photo 1 *Nephotettix nigropictus* Natasha Wright, Cook's Pest Control, Bugwod.org. Photo 2&3 Bhusal K et al. (2019) A review of rice Tungro virus in Nepal. Journal of Plant Sciences and Crop Protection. Volume 2(1).

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project HORT/2016/185: *Responding to emerging pest and disease threats to horticulture in the Pacific islands*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.



Photo 1. Adult rice green leafhopper, *Nephotettix nigropictus*.



Photo 2. Adult rice green leafhoppers, *Nephotettix* sp. (Nepal).



Photo 3. Rice plant with symptoms of rice tungro disease.

Copyright © 2021. All rights reserved.



Australian Government  
Australian Centre for  
International Agricultural Research



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/pppw>