

Rice white-backed planthopper (423)

Summary

- Widespread. Asia, Africa (restricted), South America, the Caribbean, Europe (restricted), Oceania. In Australia, and many Pacific island countries.
- Serious pest of rice. Also on maize and wild grasses. Sucking sap causes stunting, fewer tillers, low grain weight, 'hopperburn' (>200 adults per plant). High early rainfall then long dry periods, dense planting, excessive N and insecticides encourage outbreaks. Indirect damage in Asia from spread of viruses.
- Eggs laid into stems or midribs. Adults 2-3 mm long, pale brown, with white stripe down centre of shield over the head and thorax. Long-winged adults migrate when populations high. Long distance migrations in Asia.
- Natural enemies: rice bug, *Cyrtorhinus lividipennis* (see **Fact Sheet no. 419**).
- Cultural control: synchronise planting between neighbours avoiding overlapping crops; monitor using lightbulb over pan of water, away from field and nursery; apply split applications of N; use early-maturing varieties, and grow only two crop/year; drain fields for 3-4 day if populations high; do not ratoon crop; plough in stubble after harvest; tolerant varieties.
- Chemical control: use pesticides for nursery (seedbed) if: (i) more than one planthopper per stem, or (ii) more planthoppers than natural enemies. In nursery or field avoid broad-spectrum pesticides.

Common Name

White-backed planthopper

Scientific Name

Sogatella furcifera

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Information from CABI (2018) *Sogatella furcifera* (white-backed planthopper). Crop Protection Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/50497>); and information (and Photo 4) from Planthopper. Rice Knowledge Bank. IRRI. (<http://www.knowledgebank.irri.org/training/fact-sheets/pest-management/insects/item/planthopper>). Photo 1 IRRI Photos Part of the image collection of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ricephotos/6233360329/in/photolist-66ExZW-8nPXie-66EDH5-66Ernj-66A8WM-66AFNR-xwT68F-xfpboh-xgttnE-vuR2so-uynhx5-auPARP>). Photos 2&3 Paul Langlois, Museum Collections: Cicadas, Planthoppers, & Allies, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org.

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Photo 1. Planthopper attack on rice, causing 'hopperburn', a wilt, drying out and eventual death of plants in patches where populations of planthoppers are high.



Photo 2. Long-winged form of the white-backed planthopper, *Sogatella furcifera*.



Photo 3. Long-winged form of the white-backed planthopper, *Sogatella furcifera* (side view).

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