

Squash leaf-footed bug (165)

Summary

- Widespread distribution. In Asia, Oceania. On snake gourd, melon, cucumber and other cucurbits, the main hosts. Occasionally, an important pest.
- Nymphs and adults suck sap from leaves, stems, fruits. Fruits, shrivel, rot and fall.
- Eggs laid on leaves and stems. Nymphs reddish, darkening later and developing outgrowths on legs. Very long mouthparts.
- Natural enemies: no reports from Pacific islands; elsewhere, assassin bugs, mantids, spiders and wasps.
- Cultural control: avoid planting new crops next to old; handpick – bugs are slow-moving in early morning; collect trash and burn after harvest.
- Chemical control: PDPs: derris or pyrethrum; or synthetic pyrethroids, but they are likely to kill predators.

Common Name

Leaf-footed bug, squash bug

Scientific Name

Leptoglossus species; *Leptoglossus gonagra* (previously known as *Leptoglossus australis*) is the common species in the Pacific islands.



Photo 1. *Leptoglossus* nymphs feeding on wild cucurbit.



Photo 2. Leaf-footed bug, *Leptoglossus* species, on snake gourd.



Photo 4. Leaf-footed bug, *Leptoglossus* species, on luffa.



Photo 3. Leaf-footed bug, *Leptoglossus* species, on tomato clearly showing the 'leaf' of the leg.



Photo 5. Leaf-footed bug, *Leptoglossus* species, on flower of pumpkin with the 'leaf' of the leg clearly showing.

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from Ingels C, Haviland D (2014) Pest notes: Leaf-footed bug. UC/IPM. ANR Publication 74168. (<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74168.html>). and from *Leptoglossus gonagra* (2020). Wikipedia. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leptoglossus_gonagra). Photos 1&2 Graham Teakle, Canberra. Photos 3-5 Mani Mua, SPC, Sigatoka Research Station, Fiji.

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