

Sweetpotato flea hopper (026)

Summary

- Narrow distribution. On brassicas, cucurbits, beans, peanuts, sweetpotato. An important pest.
- Eggs laid in leaves; nymphs green, shiny black as adults, 2 mm long, with large hind legs, long antennae, piercing mouth parts. Impact unknown.
- Sucking causes white spots, sometimes whole leaf turns greyish-white. Black faecal spots on leaves.
- Cultural control: plant healthy vines; plant new crops far from old; weed; Chinese cabbage, radish, mustard as trap crops; collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: PDPs - derris, pyrethrum or chilli; or synthetic pyrethroids.

Common Name

Sweetpotato flea hopper, flea hopper, garden flea hopper, black garden flea hopper.

Scientific Name

Halticus species (*Halticus tibialis*, *Halticus minutus*)



Photo 4. Sweetpotato flea hopper, *Halticus tibialis*, showing the long legs and antennae.



Photo 1. Sweetpotato flea hopper, *Halticus* sp., on dwarf bean causing a speckled leaves.



Photo 2. Sweetpotato flea hopper, *Halticus* sp., on sweetpotato causing a silvering of the leaves.



Photo 3. Sweetpotato flea hopper, *Halticus* sp., on peanut causing small white spots on the leaves.

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Information from Capinera JL (1999) Garden fleahopper *Halticus bractatus*. University of Florida. (<http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/leaf/fleahopper.htm>).

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