

## Bele (Abelmoschus) leaf roller (087)

### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On *bele* (*aibika*, island cabbage or *sliperi kabis*, *Abelmoschus manihot*), ornamental *Hibiscus*, cotton, okra, and some weeds. An important pest.
- Eggs laid singly or in groups on underside of leaves. At first, larvae feed together, later alone in leaf rolls, causing leaves to curl, droop down and fall.
- Cultural control: plant away from infested crops; pinch and squash rolled leaves, if number are low; prune rolled leaves; after last harvest, collect and burn debris.
- Chemical control: PDPs (with soap): chilli, derris, pyrethrum, or neem; use biopesticides, e.g., Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), or spinosad, but best to spray young larvae; use synthetic pyrethroids, but more likely to kill natural enemies.

### Common Name

Cotton leaf roller, bele leaf roller

### Scientific Name

*Haritalodes derogata*; previously, it was known as *Sylepta derogata*.



Photo 1. Caterpillar of *Haritalodes derogata* rolling leaves of *bele*.



Photo 2. Caterpillar of the bele (cotton) leaf roller, *Haritalodes derogata*, showing the dark spots behind the head.



Photo 3. Caterpillar of the bele (cotton) leaf roller, *Haritalodes derogata*.



Photo 4. Adult bele (cotton) leaf roller, *Haritalodes derogata*.



Photo 5. Extensive damage to *bele* (cabbage) by the bele (cotton) leaf roller, *Haritalodes derogata*.



Photo 6. Curling and drooping of leaves attacked by the bele (cotton) leaf roller, *Haritalodes derogata*.

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Information from Crosby TK, Cocks G (2013) Cotton leaf roller (*Haritalodes derogata*): PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>; and CABI (2020) *Haritalodes derogata* (cotton leaf roller), Crop Protection Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/52198>). Photos 1-3 Suzanne Neave, CABI, UK. Photo 4 Georg Goergen, IITA/Insect Museum, Cotonou, Benin.

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