

Pacific Pests, Pathogens, Weeds & Pesticides - Online edition

Bele (Abelmoschus) leafminer (256)

Summary

- World distribution unknown. On *bele* (*aibika*, *sliperi kabis*, island cabbage, *Abelmoschus manihot*), and other members of the Hibiscus family, including the cultivated *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* and the wild *Hibiscus tiliaceus*. An important pest.
- Mines caused by a moth larva making leaves inedible. Mines occur alongside veins, causing paper-thin, silvery, bronzed shiny areas.
- Cultural control: squash the mines by hand if numbers are small; if numerous, remove affected leaves and burn; do not plant next to infested gardens; after last harvest, pull out and burn the plants.
- Chemical control: use soap, white or horticultural oils; use PDPs (with soap): chilli, derris, pyrethrum, or neem; use synthetic pyrethroids, or systemic products, e.g., acephate or imidacloprid, but they are more likely to kill natural enemies.



Photo 1. Mines and adjacent damage along veins covering most of the leaves of *bele* caused by the bele leaf miner, *Acrocercops* sp.



Photo 2. Extensive damage caused by the bele leaf miner, *Acrocercops* sp.



Photo 4. Adult bele leafminers, *Acrocercops patellata*, and pupa derived from mines on Malay apple, *Syzygium malaccense*.



Photo 3. Adult bele leafminers, *Acrocercops patellata* bred from *bele*, *Abelmoschus manihot*.

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¹Preston SR (1998) Aibika/Bele. *Abelmoschus manihot* (L.) Medik. Promoting the conservation and use of underutilized and neglected crops. 24. Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research, Gatersleben/International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome; and ²Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London, HMSO.

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC/2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

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