

## Cabbage (mustard) aphid (332)

### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On plants in cabbage family and related weeds. An important pest.
- Infestations cause: (i) curling, yellowing and stunting, especially mustards; (ii) honeydew that spoils quality; and (iii) spread of viruses.
- Adults 1.7 mm long. Wingless - greenish-yellow, covered in fine wax, with green bands along top of the body, and dark antennae. Winged - shiny black heads and prothorax (segment behind head), and green abdomen. In tropics, females give birth to living young without mating.
- Spread by winged forms in wind currents.
- Natural enemies: many predators and parasitoid wasps (e.g., *Diaeretiella*, *Aphidius*, *Aphelinus*).
- Cultural control: nursery hygiene: clean trays, pasteurise soil or use soilless mixes; avoid planting next to, or down-wind from infested crops; weed; remove infested leaves; destroy ant colonies with boiling water (or insecticides); collect and destroy debris after harvest.
- Chemical control: (i) PDPs (derris, chilli, garlic, neem, pyrethrum); (ii) soap solution, horticultural or white oils (**see Fact Sheet no. 56**). Avoid broad-spectrum products. Only use e.g., synthetic pyrethroids to kill ants.

### Common Name

Cabbage aphid, mustard aphid, turnip aphid.

### Scientific Name

*Lipaphis erysimi*, previously known as *Lipaphis pseudobrassicae* and *Rhopalosiphum pseudobrassicae*.



Photo 1. Adult mustard aphid, *Lipaphis erysimi*. Note the green bands on the back of the aphid.



Photo 2. Adult winged mustard aphid, *Lipaphis erysimi*.



Photo 3. The swollen mustard aphids, *Lipaphis erysimi*, have been parasitised. They are known as 'mummies'.

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from CABI (2017) *Lipaphis erysimi* (mustard aphid). Crop Protection Compendium. ([www.cabi.org/cpc](http://www.cabi.org/cpc)); and *Lipaphis erysimi* (*Kaltenbach*) (2007) Crop Knowledge Master Department of Entomology, Honolulu, Hawaii. (<http://www.extento.hawaii.edu/kbase/crop/type/lipaphis.htm>); and from MAF (New Zealand) Plant Health & Environment (2011) Turnip Aphid (*Lipaphis erysimi*): PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>). Photo 1-3 Alton N. Sparks, Jr., University of Georgia, Bugwood.org. Photo 4 Caroline Smith, University of Tasmania, Australia.

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