

Citrus aphids (249)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. There are two types, brown and black; but a microscope is needed to tell them apart. The brown citrus aphid occurs on citrus, and perhaps close relatives. The black citrus aphid occurs on over 120 hosts, including citrus, cocoa, coffee, *Hibiscus*, maize, *Vanda* orchids and tea. Important pests.
- Important: (i) suck sap damaging shoot tips; (ii) spread *Citrus tristeza virus*; (iii) produce honeydew, blackening leaves.
- *Citrus tristeza virus* is spread more efficiently by the black type.
- Most colonies are wingless; winged adults develop when colonies are large. The aphids can fly up to 30 km.
- Natural enemies: predators, and parasitoid wasps.
- Chemical control: white or horticultural oils; PDPs: neem, derris, pyrethrum, or chilli; or synthetic pyrethroids, but likely to kill natural enemies.

Common Name

Brown and black citrus aphids. There is confusion in these names with brown and black given to both species of *Toxoptera* by different authors. CABI has the common names as follows: *Toxoptera aurantii* is the camellia aphid, and *Toxoptera citricida* as the black citrus aphid. Some accounts give the common name for *Toxoptera citricida* as the black/brown aphid!

In this fact sheet *Toxoptera citricida* is the brown citrus aphid, and *Toxoptera aurantii*, the black citrus aphid.

Scientific Name

Toxoptera species. *Toxoptera citricida*, brown citrus aphid (CABI-black citrus aphid); *Toxoptera aurantii*, black citrus aphid (CABI-camellia aphid).

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from CABI (2020) *Toxoptera citricida* (black citrus aphid). Crop Protection Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/54271>); and Aphids in citrus (2020) Agriculture and Food. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Western Australia. (<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/citrus/aphids-citrus>); Martin KW, et al (2012) Citrus Pests Black citrus aphid. USDA, University of Florida. (<https://idtools.org/id/citrus/pests/factsheet.php?name=Black%20citrus%20aphid>); and from CABI (2020) *Toxoptera aurantii* (camellia aphid). Crop Protection Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/54270>).

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Photo 1. Citrus aphids, *Toxoptera* sp., infesting a new flush of leaves.



Photo 2. Shiny black adult citrus aphids, *Toxoptera* sp., and reddish-brown nymphs on the back of a citrus leaf. Note the two syrphid larvae, predators of aphids.



Photo 3. A winged citrus aphid, *Toxoptera* sp. in the foreground.

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