

Citrus crusader bug (382)

Summary

- Restricted distribution. In Oceania, Australia, Fiji, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Samoa, Wallis and Futuna, and Vanuatu. Hosts include acacia, eucalyptus, citrus, papaya, beans, and other legumes, grape, tomato and rose.
- Nymphs dark brown, late stages with two orange dots on the abdomen; adults grey to brown with yellow cross in their backs.
- Damage: adults and nymphs pierce shoots with sucking mouth parts cause wilts. A minor pest of citrus and wattles (acacias). A potential biocontrol for *Mimosa pigra*.
- Natural enemies: birds, spiders, assassin bugs and wasp parasitoids.
- Cultural control: hand pick if numbers are low: they are slow moving.
- Chemical control: unlikely that insecticides needed, but if they are, spot spray with systemic pyrethroid.

Common Name

Citrus crusader bug. It is also known as the holy cross bug.

Scientific Name

Mictis profana. In Australia, *Mictis caja* and *Mictis difficilis* are also present. It is a coreid bug, and a leaf-footed species.



Photo 1. Adult crusader bug, *Mictis profana*, causing wilts on unidentified weed (Vanuatu).

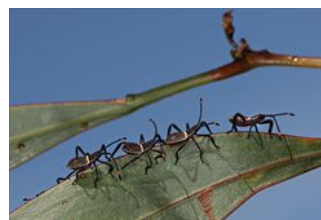


Photo 2. Nymphs of the crusader bug, *Mictis profana* on golden wattle.



Photo 4. Adult crusader bug, *Mictis profana*, on eggplant.



Photo 3. Adult crusader bug, *Mictis profana*.



Photo 5. Adult crusader bug, *Mictis profana*.

AUTHORS Grahame Jackson & Mani Mua

Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London; and from Crusader bug (2002) Department of Primary Industries, NSW, Australia. (<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/horticulture/citrus/content/insects-diseases-disorders-and-biosecurity/insect-pest-factsheets/crusader-bug>). Photo 2 Patrick_K59 at <https://flickr.com/photos/63175631@N02/23610154572>. Photo 3 Ra3vyn (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mictis_profana#/media/File:C.CrusaderBug.jpg).

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