

Coffee rust (141)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On arabica and robusta coffee. An important disease.
- Spots, 2-3 mm, expanding to 15 mm, with yellow-orange powdery blotches on underside. Later, spots on top turn brown with yellow halos. Leaves may fall and shoots dieback. Over-bearing dieback may occur if rust epidemics occurs on high-yielding trees. Food reserves from the tree are diverted to the berries and stem dieback results.
- Spores spread by wind and insects, but need water to germinate. Possibly, new strain in Central America.
- Cultural control: critical factors are: spacing; soil nutrition; shade; resistant varieties (e.g., *Catimor*).
- Chemical control: copper (protectant); triazoles (systemic). Usually, not needed above 1700 m.

Common Name

Coffee leaf rust

Scientific Name

Hemileia vastatrix

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Information (and Photos 1&2) from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany, and CABI (2020) *Hemileia vastatrix* (coffee leaf rust). Crop Protection Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/26865>); and Arneson PA (2000) Coffee rust. The Plant Health Instructor. (<https://www.apsnet.org/edcenter/disandpath/fungalbasidio/pdlessons/Pages/CoffeeRust.aspx>); and from *Hemileia vastatrix*. Wikipedia. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemileia_vastatrix). Photo 3 Kohler F, et al. (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia.

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Photo 1. Young yellowish leaf spots, 3-5 mm diameter, of coffee rust, *Hemileia vastatrix*, on the upper surface of a coffee leaf mostly between the veins. Some of the spots are starting to merge.



Photo 2. Yellow-orange spots on the underside of a coffee leaf caused by coffee rust, *Hemileia vastatrix*. The spots have started to form powdery spores.

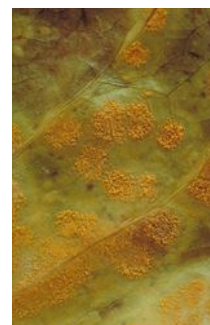


Photo 3. Close-up of the powdery spore masses of coffee rust, *Hemileia vastatrix*, on the underside of a coffee leaf at a late stage of infection when many of the spots have merged.



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