

Eggplant flea beetle (247)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On eggplant, potato, tomato, and weeds. Several types. Occasionally important.
- Eggs laid in soil; larvae tunnel through roots or stems, pupating in the soil; adults, 3.5-4 mm, shiny dark green or blue. Fly and jump. Small holes made in leaves, sometimes severe. Can kill seedlings.
- Cultural control: avoid overlapping crops, leave at least 3 months between crops; fertilizers and manures to promote growth; weed; crop rotation; collect trash and burn after harvest.
- Chemical control: PDPs: derris, pyrethrum, or chilli, or synthetic pyrethroids.

Common Name

Eggplant flea beetle, *Psylliodes* flea beetle

Scientific Name

Psylliodes species. The beetle is recorded from Fiji and Tonga as *Psylliodes bretteghami*, but other species are likely to be present in the Pacific islands. However, even though the different species may have different hosts, it is likely that they have similar life cycles.

Psylliodes bretteghami is thought to be synonymous with *Psylliodes cucurbitae*.



Photo 1. Adult *Psylliodes* beetles feeding on eggplant.



Photo 2. Damage to eggplant by *Psylliodes* flea beetles.



Photo 4. *Psylliodes* species on tomato. Possibly the same as those on eggplant.



Photo 5. Adult *Psylliodes bretteghami*



Photo 6. Adult *Psylliodes bretteghami* (side view).



Photo 3. Small patches of eggplant leaf eaten by adult *Psylliodes*.

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