Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

Sweetpotato tortoise beetle (054)

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Asia and Oceania. On sweetpotato and others in morning glory family.
- Eggs laid singly on leaves; larvae with 'anal fork' of previous skins and faeces; pupate on leaves; adults (5 mm) round, golden, with broad wing margins.
- Holes made in leaves as beetles feed. Effect on root yield is unknown, but unlikely to be high.
- Natural enemies: parasitic wasp and predators.
- Cultural control: do not plant new crops next to old; apply mulches, manures, fertilizers, water for rapid early growth; weed; collect/burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: PDPs: ash (or ash plus lime in water), derris, pyrethrum, or chilli; or synthetic pyrethroids, but likely to kill natural enemies.

Common Name

Sweetpotato tortoise beetle

Scientific Name

Cassida and *Aspidimorpha* species.

Photo 1. Holes made by tortoise beetles, *Cassida* spp., in leaves of sweetpotato.

Photo 2. *Aspidimorpha deusta* on sweetpotato (Solomon Islands). It is also a common species on *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Photo 3. *Cassida papuana* on sweetpotato showing damage to leaf surface.

Photo 4. Above view of the tortoise beetle, *Cassida papuana*.

Photo 5. Underside of the tortoise beetle, *Cassida papuana*, showing the extended thorax and wing covers.

Photo 6. Tortoise beetle, *Cassida*

compuncta, on silverbeet, Fiji. An introduction to Fiji - native to Queensland and New South Wales, Australia.

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Information from Chris Reid (pers. comm.), Australian Museum, Sydney; and from Tortoise and spotted cucumber beetles on sweet potato (2012) ONspecialitycrops. (https://onspecialtycrops.ca/2012/08/10/tortoise-and-spotted-cucumber-beetles-on-sweet-potatoes/). Photo 2 Graham Teakle, Canberra. Photo 6 Mani Mua, SPC, Sigatoka, Fiji.

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