

## Bele (Abelmoschus) leafhoppers (039)

### Summary

- Narrow distribution, Asia and Oceania (but not confirmed). On bele (*abika*, *sliperi kabis*, island cabbage, *Abelmoschus manihot*), cotton, okra, beans, eggplant, peanut.
- Eggs laid on leaves; nymphs green-yellow, like the adults but wingless; both feed on leaves causing crinkling, yellow patches, sometimes white edges.
- Even small numbers cause damage, perhaps injecting toxic saliva when feeding. Worse in dry times.
- Natural enemies: ladybird beetles, parasitoid wasps, spiders.
- Cultural control: test varieties for resistance.
- Chemical control: PDPs: neem, derris, pyrethrum, or chill; spinosad or Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*); or synthetic pyrethroids, but they will kill natural enemies.

### Common Name

Green or Indian cotton jassid (or leafhopper). These are the common names given to *Amrasca devastans*, but the species in the Pacific has not been identified.

### Scientific Name

Most likely *Amrasca biguttula biguttula*; previously, it was known as *Amrasca devastans*, and *Empoasca devastans*.



Photo 1. Adult jassid, *Amrasca ?devastans*, on the underside of a *bele* leaf.



Photo 2. Close-up adult jassid, *Amrasca ?devastans*, on the underside of a *bele* leaf.



Photo 3. Yellowing and crinkling of leaves of *bele* infested by the jassid leafhopper, *Amrasca ?devastans*.



Photo 4. The plant with the highly dissected leaf in the foreground appears tolerant to jassids - compare with those



Photo 5. Variety of *bele* from Solomon Islands that appears tolerant to infestations of the jassid, *Amrasca ?devastans*. (Needs verification.)

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Information from Bellis G, Fletcher M (2005) Indian cotton leafhopper (*Amrasca biguttula biguttula*): PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>, and from *Amrasca biguttula*. Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amrasca\\_biguttula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amrasca_biguttula)). Photo 2 Graham Teakle, Canberra.

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