

Pest Profile



Photo credit: David Fenwick, aphotofauna.com

Common Name: Black Citrus Aphid

Scientific Name: *Toxoptera aurantii*

Order and Family: Hemiptera, Aphididae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		This species does not lay eggs. They reproduce only by parthenogenesis, which is a form of asexual reproduction that requires no mating. Female gives birth to live young.
Larva/Nymph	1.41mm	Brown color
Adult	1-2.1mm	Oval, shiny black, brownish-black or reddish-brown coloring with short, black and white banded antennae.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing/sucking mouthparts for feeding on plant juices.

Host plant/s: Wide host range including citrus, coffee, cocoa, *Ficus*, and *Hibiscus*

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Black citrus aphids are vectors of a variety of coffee viruses such as coffee ringspot and blister spot. These aphids also transmit Citrus tritessa virus, which is one of the most economically devastating citrus diseases. Heavy feeding can cause leaf curling and distorted growth. Excessive honeydew as a result of heavy feeding can cause sooty mold to appear.

References:

Carver, M. (1978). The black citrus aphids, *Toxoptera citricidus* (Kirkaldy) and *T. aurantii* (Boyer de Fonscolombe)(Homoptera: Aphididae). *Australian Journal of Entomology*, 17(3), 263-270.

Mau, R. F., & Kessing, J. L. M. (1992). *Toxoptera aurantii*-Black Citrus Aphid. *Crop Knowledge Master*. University of Hawaii-Honolulu.

<http://www.extento.hawaii.edu/kbase/crop/type/toxopter.htm#REFERENCES>