



Note black fecal drops



Immature thrips

Common Name:

Red-Banded Thrips

Scientific Name:*Selenothrips rubrocinctus* (Giard) (Thysanoptera: Thripidae)

The eggs are inserted into the leaf and hatch in about two weeks. The nymphs are yellow with a bright red band around the abdomen and carry a drop of reddish excrement on the tip of their upturned abdomen. These drops are periodically left on the leaf and make shiny black spots. The nymphal and pupal stages last about two weeks. The adults are dark brown and about one millimeter long.

Mango is most seriously affected, with the worst damage seen at the seedling stage. Cashew, cocoa and avocado are among other hosts of this insect.

This insect is widely distributed throughout the Tropics, including the Mariana Islands.

The insects feed on the underside of the leaf. The lower surface of heavily infested mango leaves have a dark, rusty appearance with numerous small shiny black spots of excreta. Leaf edges become curled. Seedlings may be severely damaged, so that growth is set back. Older trees may lose their leaves prematurely.

Control: Control is usually not necessary on adult trees. Seedling trees may be treated with insecticides. Consult an Agricultural Extension Agent for recommendations on chemical control by calling 734-2575, 734-2579, 734-2518 or 734-4753.

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