



Bean Fly maggot in a damaged bean seedling

Common Name:

Bean Fly

Scientific Name:

Ophiomyia phaseoli (Tyron) (Diptera: Agromyzidae)

Eggs are laid singly on leaves near the petioles or leaf stalks. When beans are at the seedling stage, the emerging maggots bore down into the stem and feed just above ground level. Once the plants are past the seedling stage, the larvae bore into the petioles of the leaves. Pupation takes place within the damaged part of the stem. The total life history takes about two to three weeks. On Guam, the fly larvae are attacked by a parasite, but this does not always keep the number of bean flies under control.

The stem becomes swollen and cracked, and the seedling often fails to grow. Attacks on the leaf petioles cause the leaves to drop prematurely.

The crops affected are beans of various species, including yard-long beans, pole beans and mungo beans.

The bean fly is widespread in Africa, Asia and the Pacific region and present in the Mariana and Caroline Islands.

Control: When problems are experienced with this insect, overlapping crops of beans should be avoided, and crop residues should be destroyed. Chemical control is effective and may be used if necessary. Often it is sufficient to spray just two times, two and 12 days after the seedlings emerge from the soil. Consult an Agricultural Extension Agent for the latest information on recommended insecticides by calling 734-2575, 734-2579, 734-2518 or 734-4753.

Prepared by Ilse Schreiner, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Entomology

CES Publication # PS 88-11