



Avocado Mosquito Bug (*Helopeltis schoutedeni*)



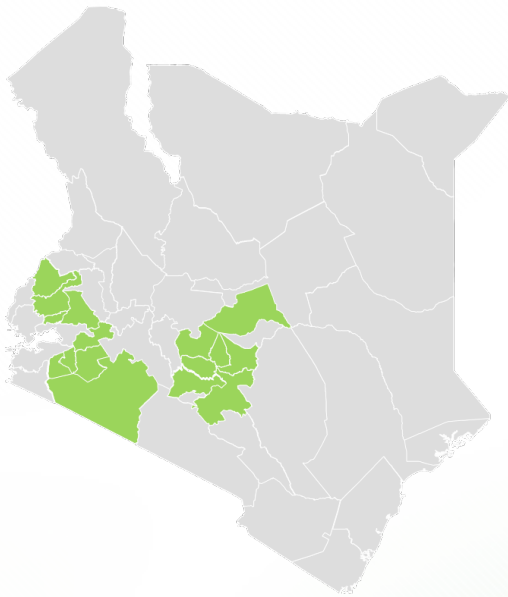
KALRO E-mimea Plant Clinic

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Other crops:	Guava, cashew nut, cotton, bixa and castor bean
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<p>Mosquito bug infestation of avocado stem Source: Lusike Wasilwa, KALRO</p>	<p>Mosquito bug infestation of avocado fruit Source: Lusike Wasilwa, KALRO</p>
<p>Pest Name</p>	<p>Mosquito bugs (<i>Helopeltis schoutedeni</i>)</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>Mosquito bug is a new emerging pest of avocado in Kenya. The damage caused negatively impacts on yield making it a pest of economic importance. Research of this pest in Kenya has just commenced. Other hosts of this pest are guava, cashew nut, cotton and castor bean. The mosquito bug infests leaves, flowers, and fruits at all stages of development including fruit set and mature fruits.</p>
<p>Diagnosis/Identification</p>	<p>Symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They are slender, delicate insects, about 7- 10 mm long with long legs and antennae, the antenna being nearly twice as long as the body. - The females are red and the males are brown to yellowish red.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To detect the mosquito bug, you are to ensure you look on the underside of leaves as well as the fruits early in the morning. - Affected leaves often curl and become deformed, and dieback of young shoots is common.
Conditions prevailing that contribute to success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infected plant residues in the field serve as a source of future infestations - Un pruned canopies could be conducive for pest hiding and breeding
Conditions prevailing that contribute to failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pruning of avocado trees - Practise field hygiene to reduced infestations
Management Strategy	<p>The following management options are recommended:</p> <p>Cultural:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use certified seedlings - Fertilizers – potassium and phosphorus - Manage plant density and prune the crop appropriately - Smoke out the insects - Use trap crops such as <i>Bixa orellana</i> <p>Scouting: Should be carried out weekly early in the morning looking on the underside of leaves and on stems. Also scout the local avocado landraces and alternate hosts e.g. guava.</p> <p>Use sticky traps to reduce the populations</p> <p>Chemical controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insecticides: Imidacloprid based products e.g. Thunder OD 145, Warrant 200 SL, Tata Milda 200SL <p>Note: Agrochemicals should be used in consultation with professional practitioners and considering existing cautionary/safety measures, particularly the manufacturer's instructions.</p>

Mandate Centres	<p>More information can be obtained from: ICRI KALRO–NSRC Email: kalro.sericulture@kalro.org Address: P. O. Box 7816-01000, Thika</p> <p>ABIRI KALRO Perkerra Email: director@abiri.org Address: P. O. Box 32-30403, Marigat</p> <p>KALRO Seed Email: info.kalroseeds@kalro.org; info@kalro.org Address: P. O. Box 6223-01000, Thika</p> <p>KALRO-NARL Kabete Email: cd.narl@kalro.org; info@kalro.org Address: P. O. Box 14733-00800, Nairobi</p> <p>Website: www.kalro.org</p>
Geographic Coverage	<p>This is an emerging pest and could be found in major avocado producing areas in Kenya</p>
<p>Geographic Coverage The project counties for avocado are Bomet, Bungoma, Embu, Kakamega, Kiambu, Kericho, Kirinyaga, Kisii, Machakos, Meru, Muranga, Nandi, Narok, Nyamira, Nyeri, Uasin Gishu, and Vihiga</p> <p> Project counties</p> <p> Counties where pest occurs</p>	
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References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dwomoh EA, Afun JVK, Ackonor JB. (2008). Laboratory studies of the biology of <i>Helopeltis schoutedeni</i> Reuter (Hemiptera: Miridae), a major sucking pest of cashew (<i>Anacardium occidentale</i> Linn.). <i>Journal of Cell and Animal Biology</i> 2:055–062. - CABI Digital Library: https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org
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