

African rice gall midge

Orseolia oryzivora



'Onion' or silver shoots are an unmistakable symptom of damage by rice gall midge larvae (IRRI)

Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use resistant varieties if available • Sow and plant early if conditions allow. Plant at the same time as neighbours to reduce the availability of new plants for emerging adult midges to infest and persist • Avoid movement of seedlings (transplanting) as such seedlings can be infested in the nursery, and can spread infestation • Remove wild rice (<i>Oryzae longistaminata</i>) since the gall midge will survive on this plant • Conserve <i>Paspalum</i> grass. It is a host of parasitic wasps which attack the rice gall midge. (<i>Paspalum</i> is attacked by a different type of midge which does not attack rice). • Use fertilizer in moderation. Too much nitrogen will increase shoot and leaf production and provide more food for the gall midge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly check crop, at least once every two weeks, particularly during nursery stage and after transplanting into field • Take action as soon as symptoms are seen • Adult: mosquito-like and small, brown to reddish-brown, up to 5 mm long. They are nocturnal so can be trapped with artificial light • Eggs: elongate cylindrical, about 0.5 mm long, initially white but orange-yellow just before hatching • Larvae/maggots: pink to white, up to 5 mm long when full-grown. Move between the leaf sheath and up the stem to the growing tip. They burrow into young tillers (shoots), which then stop growing • Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galls: A swollen area, initially about 3 mm in diameter, and oval but they can extend up to 1.5 metres long. Long, white and hollow. They are the distinctive 'onion' or silver shoots which are associated only with gall midge damage • Tillers: The death of young tillers stimulates the production of more tillers. Results in stunting and bushiness. Infested tillers do not produce grain • Mainly a pest of rainfed and irrigated lowland rice. The gall midge prefers high humidity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After harvest, remove any remaining rice ratoons, volunteers and wild rice. The gall midge can be carried over to the next season in any remaining rice plants • Insecticides are costly and unlikely to be effective

Note: Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.