



Helopeltis bugs on cotton

Helopeltis schoutedeni and *H. anacardii*

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control
 <p>Adult <i>H. schoutedeni</i> (Georg Goergen, IITA Insect Museum, Benin)</p>  <p><i>Helopeltis</i> nymph damage (CABI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove alternative host plants from the field and surrounding area (such as coffee, mango, avocado and cocoa). Prior to planting, remove all weeds from the field to prevent spread of pests via host weeds. Apply a band of grease or petroleum jelly along the base of plant stems, 15 cm above the ground. Avoid the use of broad spectrum insecticides as these may kill natural enemies of pests, such as parasitic wasps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively monitor crops for feeding punctures and lesions, seedling and shoot damage, and necrotic areas on plants due to feeding activity. Eggs are banana-shaped (1.8-2 mm long) with two air-tubes protruding from the upper exposed end. Nymphs are found in various sizes and colours depending on their specific developmental stage. However, the majority have a similar dorsal spine to the adult. Commonly found with red spots. Adults are red (female) or orange (male) with dark brown antennae. Adults have characteristic legs similar to that of mosquitoes. Size varies between the sex, ranging between 6-8 mm long. Survey fields using sweep nets (collect insects caught after 10 sweeps and monitor for helopeltis) and by hand. Nymphs are notably found on younger cotton leaves towards the top of plants. Hold the plant stem towards light to help locate eggs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand pick and destroy (by burning) any pest insects found during inspection of crops. Prune heavily infested plant parts and destroy by burning away from the field. Use of biocontrol such as <i>Trichogramma</i>. Control your local extension officer for advice on specific release information for your crop.

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.