

Disease Profile

Common name	Fig leaf beetle	Family	Chrysomelidae
Genus/species	<i>Poneridia semipullata</i>	Order	Coleoptra
Pest/disease type	Leaf chewing/skeletonisers		
Host	<i>Ficus sp, particularly F. rubiginosa</i>		
Symptoms	Initial damage is skeletonised foliage followed by chewed leaflets, symptoms appear in spring to summer as oppose to fig leaf moth which causes problems in winter		
Identifying features/Life cycle- Complete metamorphosis	<p>Eggs: are laid in clusters normally next to the mid rib. The clusters are a bit smaller than a 5 cent coin and dark in colour</p> <p>Larvae: young instars are fleshy and yellow in colour as they progress to later instars they become darker in colour and are up to 1cm long. They feed in groups (gregarious) and mostly skeletonise the leaflets.</p> <p>Pupae: pupation occurs in leaf litter beneath the tree</p> <p>Adult: is approx. 1cm long and dull brown in colour. The adult beetle has a distinctive black dot on top of the thorax and segmented antennae. They are leaf chewing, normally chewing from the margin inward.</p>		
Control options			
Environmental controls	Hand removal of insects. A bucket with soapy water can be placed under the foliage and the insect knocked into the bucket and than destroyed.		
Biological controls	Birds will predate on larvae and adults		
Chemical control	Imidacloprid will provide both contact and systemic control of this insect. Other contact insecticides such as pyrethrum can be used.		



http://www.brisbaneinsects.com/brisbane_leafbeetles/DircemaLeafBeetle.htm



<http://aussielivingsimply.com.au/forum/29-fruit-vines-nuts-and-sprouts/303016-fig-tree-problem>



References:

Jones and Elliot. 1990, Pests, Diseases and Ailments of Australian plants
All images by Shaun Talent unless otherwise stated