

# Banana aphid

*Pentalonia nigronervosa*



Banana aphids hiding in between the leaves and pseudostem (Scot Nelson)



*P. nigronervosa* colony (Scot Nelson)



Ants protecting a banana aphids colony (Scot Nelson)

Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use clean planting material only</li> <li>• Remove alternative hosts, such as cocoyam, taro, ginger, cardamom, from the plantation and the surroundings</li> <li>• Encourage the presence of natural enemies, such as coccinellids, hoverflies and lacewings in the plantation, by reducing the amount of chemicals used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor regularly during moderate humidity and temperature conditions (20-25°C) between leaves and pseudostem, and on the base of young leaves for small red-brown to almost black, oval aphids</li> <li>• During rainy periods, dense colonies are found around the bases of pseudostems near ground level (down to 7-8 cm below soil surface)</li> <li>• Aphids are sometimes found on fruits</li> <li>• Look for signs of aphid presence:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feeding damage from large colonies causes stunting, honeydew build-up and growth of sooty moulds on the whole plant, and fruit blemishing</li> <li>• Leaves may be rolled or folded and show necrotic areas</li> <li>• Colonies are often protected by ants, and may be hidden in earthen structures near ground level made by ants</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Banana aphid is a vector of the Banana bunchy top virus (BBTV). If aphids are found in the plantation, look carefully for BBTV symptoms for the next 25 days.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If available, release parasitoids such as <i>Lysiphlebus testaceipes</i>, <i>L. fabarum</i>, <i>Ephedrus cerasicola</i>, <i>Aphidius</i> spp. or <i>Aphelinus</i> spp.</li> <li>• Note that the release of natural enemies to lower aphid populations has not been fully successful in many countries due to ants protecting the colonies.</li> </ul>

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.