



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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### Giant taro leaf spot (188)



Photo 1. Large number of small round leaf spots, *Mycosphaerella alocasiae*, up to 8 mm diameter,



Photo 2. Large number of small round leaf spots, *Mycosphaerella alocasiae*, up to 8 mm diameter,



Photo 3. Spots on leaf of giant taro, *Mycosphaerella alocasiae*, showing spots of difference sizes, up to 8 mm diameter, with grey centres and brown borders.



Photo 4. Spots on leaf of giant taro, *Mycosphaerella alocasiae*. Note that the margin of the leaf are first to be infected, and that one side of the leaf is infected first because of the way the leaf unfurls.

### Summary

- Narrow distribution. South and Southeast Asia, Oceania. On giant taro. A minor disease.
- Infection when leaves young, but spots develop later when leaves mature. Spots, grey, sunken with raised brown borders, sometimes with yellow halos.
- Sacs containing spores seen in the spots on the top surface of leaves. Sacs burst and spores spread in wind and rain.
- Cultural control: none; not likely to impact on corm yield.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

### Common Name

Giant taro leaf spot

### Scientific Name

*Mycosphaerella alocasiae*; the asexual name is *Pasalora colocasiae*.

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Photo 2 (taken by Eric McKenzie), and used in this fact sheet, appeared previously in McKenzie E (2013) *Mycosphaerella alocasiae* PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>). Photo 3 Kohler F, Pellegrin F, Jackson G, McKenzie E (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia. Photo 4 Fred Brooks, University of Hawaii, Bugwood.org.

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