

Mango tree

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Mango trees are easy to grow in Bangkok's tropical climate and they fruit well. Most house-holders with even a little land have a mango tree in the yard that overhangs the road. Public air-space is free.



A mango tree with new leaves just a day or two old that can be cooked and eaten.



Immature flower sprays can also be cooked as a vegetable. This one is from a mountain species of mango that locals pick and cook once a year just before flowering.

There are many insect species that we find on our mango tree, including the caterpillars of a butterfly that is common in suburban areas because the mango is their host plant.



The caterpillar of the Common Baron, *Euthalia aconthea*.



The butterfly is native to India and Southeast Asia.

Leaf Cutting weevils

Deporaus marginatus (the mango weevil).



We see these weevils only on young mango leaves.



One or two individuals tend to stay on the same leaf for two to three days and do some damage to that leaf, sometimes cutting it across to drop the lower half. The numbers are low and they do no overall damage to our tree.

Leaf hoppers

There are four leaf hoppers that we find on the mango tree and rarely on anything else.



Idioscopus nitidulus, the mango leaf hopper. These 6 mm hoppers are on the leaves from April to October. They have relatively good eyesight and are difficult to approach with a camera.



This 2 mm hopper, commonly called a sharp shooter, is seen occasionally on our young mango leaves. A web search for an ID returned only one of my father's flickr images, which was not helpful.

Shaking a branch with leaves onto a white tray always gives two or three of these red 5 mm hoppers.



They scuttle sideways, have good eyesight and vanish suddenly as they launch themselves away in a half metre jump. They are difficult to approach and photograph in place on a leaf. We find them only on the mango, nowhere else.



There is a third species of leaf hopper (2 mm) that we cannot identify that scuttles sideways over mango leaves and is also found on a boxwood nearby. It passes through several instars of which this is the largest.

Thrips

Thrips are tiny insects. There are a few predator species among them, but most are sap suckers found on leaves and in flowers. They have four long feathered wings and a slow drifting flight. Sap sucking thrips tend to stay for their lives on the leaves where they were born, where they lay eggs to repeat the cycle.



A least two species of thrips are seen in low numbers on new mango leaves. They are small and do no apparent damage.



The females of two species of Thrips found on our mango leaves are shown. The males look like the females but are slightly smaller and slimmer.

Physllids

A 2 mm representative of a more obscure insect family found occasionally on our on new mango leaves and nowhere else.



Two mating pairs of Physllids on mango leaves. The female is the larger of the two. Note the unusual bifurcated antennae. They have wings, but mostly walk on leaves like thrips and ants and do not fly. They are found in good numbers or not at all.

Gall midge

Mature mango leaves are often covered on small (2 mm) round galls that take nutrients from the tree and damage the leaves.



The culprit is a tiny fly, a species of gall midge. The galls are obvious and easy to photograph but the midges are tiny, around 1 mm in length, seldom seen and rarely photographed.



We believe this to be the mango midge *Erosomyia mangiferae*. The ID is tentative and open to correction.