

Asiatic Corn Borer

Ostrinia furnacalis

A common pest to the Asian-Pacific Region and a few outbreaks in Africa, this species has not yet reached the U.S. Mostly attracted to corn, it can also cause damage to other agricultural plants. Areas in the mid-west, and possibly east, that grow acres of corn and have an ideal climate are at the highest of risks, while other areas are at moderate risk. Larvae could possibly be brought over by imported host plants.



Larvae, photo by Skinner and Talekar



Photo credit: Maize Genome Project, University of Missouri

Description:

Eggs can be found in clusters mainly on the underside of leaves on tall corn plants. The larvae have chewing mouth parts and are cream colored with brown spots on its back. Adults have a slight different coloration but both have irregular bands

running across their wings. Females are pale yellow or straw colored while males are brownish. Both adults are nocturnal and good fliers.

Damage:

The larval stage is when the severe damage occurs. It is the longest (up to 30 days) while the other stages last for only days or a week. They hatch on the corn leaves then work their way to the stalk where they tunnel up the plant stems and eventually into the corn cobs. Pupation also occurs in the plant's stem which can cause damage. One adult can produce between 500-1500 eggs on one plant. If the host isn't supplying enough food, the larvae can travel from plant to plant via silk that they create. They then get carried by the wind or on silk strands that are already attached to other plants and move on. Many generations can occur in one year depending on the temperature of the season. Eggs can be laid at any point during the growing season.

Information and picture sources:

AVRDC International Cooperators'. [Asiatic Corn Borer, *Ostrinia furnacalis*](http://www.avrdc.org/LC/mungbean/cornborer.html). 2001. 13 April 2012.
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Ohio Department of Agriculture: Plant Health Division. [Corn Commodity Survey](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/caps/ccs.aspx). 13 April 2012.
<http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/caps/ccs.aspx>