

False Codling Moth

Thaumatotibia leucotreta

Native to Africa, the false codling moth has been seen only once in California where a single male was trapped in 2008 but no wild infestations have been documented. The moth could potentially be brought into the U.S. on imported cotton, fresh produce and nuts.



Figure 1. FCM Adult

Illustration courtesy of <http://www.padii.gov.au>
(Simon Hinkley & Ken Walker)

Description:

Adults are nocturnal, small and brownish-grey in color. The eggs are whitish in color and are flat with an oval outline. Caterpillars are whitish and spotted when young and as they mature, the coloration turns into pinkish-red. The size of the mature caterpillars is roughly 15mm in length. A cocoon is made of silk and debris particles during the pupation stage and occurs in the soil or in bark crevasses.

Damage:

If the False Codling Moth were to colonize the U.S, it would impact the agricultural industry. Eggs are laid on fruit or foliage and when the young caterpillars emerge from the egg, they bore inside the fruit, causing it to ripen and drop before the harvest season. This makes the fruit undesirable and prone to bacteria, mold and other microorganisms. Infestation could possibly occur during the harvest season also, leaving the infested fruit, or cotton, undetected and shipped to a different area or country. If eggs are laid on cotton, the young caterpillars first bore into the walls and then move into the inner cavity where they feed on the seeds. Depending on seasonal climate and temperature, this nocturnal moth can produce up to six generations within a year.



Source Information:

Hoffman, Kevin. [False Codling Moth](#) 11 October 2008. 6 April 2012.
http://www.cd.fda.ca.gov/plant/pdep/target_pest_disease_profiles/FCM_PestProfile.htm

Picture Information:

University of Wyoming; Wyoming Pest Detection Program. [False Codling Moth](#). February 2011. 2012 April 6.
http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/capsweb/pi_falsecodlingmoth.asp

Varela, A.M. [Infonet-biovision Images](#). 2012 April 3. 2012 April 9. <http://www.infonet-biovision.org/default/images/128/crops>
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