



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Beet webworm (345)



Photo 1. Larva of beet webworm, *Spolodea recurvalis*.



Photo 2. Adult beet webworm, *Spolodea recurvalis*, showing white bands on wings and abdomen.



Photo 3. As in Photo 2, adult beet webworm, *Spolodea recurvalis*, showing white bands on wings and abdomen

Summary

- Worldwide. Defoliation by caterpillars important on beet, amaranth, and legumes - if attack coincides with pod-filling.
- Larvae feed from underside of leaves, making "windows"; later, feed from within rolled leaves. Up to 25 mm, greyish-green (reddish-pink at maturity), with dark line along back. Adult with white bands on wings.
- Spreads on the wing: famous for long-distance migrations; spread in plant trade.
- Natural enemies: larval parasitoids.
- Cultural control: weed; plant far from infested crops; in small plots, remove leaves with caterpillars, or squash by hand; collect debris and destroy after harvest.
- Chemical control: PDPs (neem, derris, pyrethrum, or chilli, with soap to get them into rolled leaves); use spinosad or Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). Avoid, synthetic pyrethroids: they will kill natural enemies.

Common Name

Beet webworm, Hawaiian beet webworm

Scientific Name

Spoladea recurvalis; previously known as *Hymenia recurvalis*.

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

¹Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. London; and CABI (2017) *Spoladea recurvalis* (Hawaiian beet webworm) Crop Protection Compendium. (www.cabi.org/cpc); and from Rice weevil. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland Government. (<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/plants/field-crops-and-pastures/broadacre-field-crops/integrated-pest-management/a-z-insect-pest-list/stored-grain-insect->

pests/rice-weevil). Photo 1 Alton N. Sparks, Jr., University of Georgia, Bugwood.org. Photo 2 Mark Dreiling, Bugwood.org. Photo 3 McCormack, Gerald (2007) Cook Islands Biodiversity Database, Version 2007.2. Cook Islands Natural Heritage Trust, Rarotonga. Online at: (<http://cookislands.bishopmuseum.org>).

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

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