



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

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### Cabbage centre grub (114)



Photo 1. Damage to the centre of a cabbage caused by *Hellula ?undalis* in Samoa boring into the terminal shoot and killing it. The insert shows a mature caterpillar approximately 12 mm long.



Photo 2. The result of damage caused by the cabbage webworm, *Hellula ?undalis*, as shown in Photo 1. The terminal shoot has been destroyed and side shoots have developed producing many small clusters of leaves.

#### Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On members of the brassica family, i.e., cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage and radish, but also amaranth and eggplant. An important pest.
- Eggs pink, difficult to see, laid singly or in small groups; larvae with pink/brown stripes along sides.
- Young larvae mine leaves, older ones bore into stems and buds; plants die or have multiple heads as the central shoot is killed and side shoots develop.
- Cultural control: inspect nurseries and crops regularly; look for frass and silk; plant far from old plots; weed; use trap crops, e.g., mustards or Chinese cabbage (Bok Choy); destroy trap crop before eggs hatch.
- Chemical control: in household plots, PDPs to safeguard natural enemies (chillies, neem, derris, pyrethrum); in commercial plots, grow under nets; use Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) sprays against caterpillars when young.

#### Common Name

Cabbage centre grub, cabbage webworm

#### Scientific Name

*Hellula undalis*

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Information from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press. Assistance was also provided by Wilco Liebrechts, Eco-Consult Pacific, Fiji.

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC/2010/090: *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.

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International Agricultural Research

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