



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

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### Cabbage cluster caterpillar (LCM) (078)



Photo 1. Caterpillars of the cabbage heart-centre caterpillar, *Crocidolomia pavonana*, eating at the heart of a cabbage. Notice the stripes on the caterpillars.



Photo 2. Adult of the cabbage heart-centre moth, *Crocidolomia pavonana*.



Photo 3. Adult of the cabbage heart-centre moth, *Crocidolomia pavonana*, displayed to show wing patterns.



Photo 4. Young cabbage showing attack on young and old leaves by the cabbage heart-centre caterpillar, *Crocidolomia pavonana*.



Photo 5. Severe damage caused by the cabbage heart-centre caterpillar, *Crocidolomia pavonana*.

### Summary

- Widespread distribution. Asia, Africa, Oceania. On members of the brassica family - broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, mustard and radish.
- Egg masses yellow. Young larvae feed together often on the “head”. Larger larvae with long hairs, yellow lines along the back and brown heads.
- Larvae feed under silk webbing at the plant centre.
- Cultural control: inspect nurseries and crops frequently: remove egg masses and/or larvae; plant far from old crops; trap crops, e.g., mustards or Chinese cabbage (Bok Choy), but destroy trap crop before insects 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 cluster caterpillar, large cabbage moth (LCM), large cabbage-heart caterpillar

## Scientific Name

*Crocidolomia pavonana*; previously, known as *Crocidolomia binotalis*.

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Information from CABI (2014) Crop Protection Compendium: *Crocidolomia pavonana*. (<http://www.cabi.org/cpc>); and from Mike Furlong, University of Queensland, Australia. Photo 2 Department of Agriculture and Food, Government of Western Australia. (<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/cabbage/cabbage-head-caterpillar-cabbage-pest-indonesia>). Photo 3 Mani Mtu SPC, Sigatoka Research Station, Fiji.

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