



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

<https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ppp/>

Citrus fruit piercing moth (113)



Photo 1. Adult fruit-piercing moth, *Endocima fullonia*. Note the red hind wings with the distinctive comma markings and black borders.



Photo 2. Fruit drop on orange caused by fruit piercing moth, *Eudocima fullonia* (Queensland). There is no fruit left on the tree!



Photo 3. Close-up of fallen citrus fruit from tree illustrated in Photo 2. Note, the small circular rots that quickly spread across the fruit; these are due to secondary invasions of fungi and bacteria after the fruit-piercing moth, *Eudocima fullonia*, has made an entry point.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Not in Americas. On a wide range of cultivated and wild fruits, including banana, citrus, 5-corner fruit, guava, mango, passionfruit, pineapple and, in outbreak years, capsicum, melon and tomato. An important pest.
- Adult moths do the damage, causing serious outbreaks on citrus (>70%), tomatoes, capsicum, 5-corner fruit. Adults have a 25 mm long, barbed feeding tube to pierce the fruit and suck out the juices. Rots develop from the holes.
- Eggs laid on *Erythrina* trees, where larvae feed. Note, a gall wasp has decimated trees in some countries, and moth populations have declined.
- Natural enemies: not always sufficient to stop outbreaks.
- Cultural controls: early harvests; fruit bagging, nets.
- Chemical control: not practical; moths have minimal contact with fruit, and sprays near harvest may leave residues. Not feasible to cut down *Erythrina* trees.

Common Name

Fruit-piercing moth

Scientific Name

Eudocima fullonia; previously *Othreis fullonia*

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press. Assistance; and from Wilco Liebrechts, Eco-Consult Pacific, Fiji. Photo 1 Gerald McCormack, Cook Islands Biodiversity & Natural Heritage. (<http://cookislands.bishopmuseum.org>).

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.

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

The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.



Copyright © 2020. All rights reserved.