



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

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

### Coconut flat moth (065)



Photo 1. Male adult, coconut flat moth, *Agonoxena argaula*.



Photo 2. Female adult, coconut flat moth, *Agonoxena argaula*.



Photo 3. Eggs of coconut flat moth, *Agonoxena argaula*, on the underside of a sweet potato leaf.



Photo 4. Caterpillar, coconut flat moth, *Agonoxena argaula*.



Photo 5. "Windows" in coconut leaflets caused by the feeding of the coconut flat moth, *Agonoxena* species (probably, *Agonoxena pyrogramma*, Solomon Islands).



Photo 6. "Windows" in coconut leaflets caused by the feeding of the coconut flat moth, *Agonoxena* species. The caterpillar has chewed the surface of the leaf, leaving the small veins (probably, *Agonoxena pyrogramma*, Solomon Islands).

### Summary

- Narrow distribution. In Hawaii and Oceania. On coconuts and other palms. Occasionally serious on mature palms and seedlings, but effect on yield unknown.
- Larvae do the damage, making a protective fine web and eating the leaf from the underside. More abundant during dry weather.
- Natural enemies: several parasitoid wasp introductions have been made; also ants eat the eggs and spiders eat the adults.
- Cultural control: no recommendations.
- Chemical control: on mature palms pesticides unlikely to be economic, and will delay control by natural enemies; on seedlings, use synthetic pyrethroids, but they will also kill natural enemies.

## Common Name

Coconut flat moth

## Scientific Name

*Agonoxena* sp. The main pest species of Pacific Island countries is *Agonoxena argaula*. *Agonoxena pyrogramma* also occurs.

---

AUTHORS Helen Tsatsia & Grahame Jackson

Information from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press. Photos 1,2&4 Gerald McCormack, Cook Islands Biodiversity & Natural Heritags. (<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.

