



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

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### Maize Asian corn borer (115)



Photo 1. Caterpillar of the Asian corn borer, *Ostrinia furnacalis*, inside a maize cob. The caterpillars are pinkish-brown.

#### Summary

- Widespread distribution. Asia, Southeast Asia, Oceania. On maize, including sweet corn, ginger, sorghum; also, capsicum, cotton and sugarcane.
- Eggs laid at base and underside of leaves. Caterpillars are pinkish-brown, feeding first on leaves, later, on male and female flowers. Late stages bore into the stem, and may cause a wilt. Adult is a strong flyer.
- Cultural control: remove tassels (male flowers) from 75% of the plants; resistant varieties.
- Natural enemies: parasitoid wasps. IPM program in Papua New Guinea: release of *Trichogramma plasseyensis*, neem sprays, and tassel removal.
- Chemical control: avoid synthetic insecticides (e.g., pyrethroids) as they will destroy natural enemies.

#### Common Name

Asian corn borer

#### Scientific Name

*Ostrinia furnacalis*

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Information from CABI (2012) *Ostrinia furnacalis* Crop Protection Compendium. (<http://www.cabi.org/cpc/>).

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