



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Noni shield-bearer moth (431)



Photo 1. Numerous mines in noni leaf caused by *Antispila* species.



Photo 2. Close-up of mines on noni containing larvae of *Antispila* species. Note oval missing areas of leaf cut by larvae before falling out on silken threads to pupate on bark or leaves on soil.



Photo 3. Single mine of *Antispila* species on noni. Note, the expansion of the mine to a blotch.

Summary

- Widespread. South Asia (India), East Asia (China, Japan), Africa (Madagascar), North and South America, Europe, Oceania, In Australia, Tonga.
- Seriousness and effect on yield unknown. On noni; no other hosts recorded.
- Species unknown. Likely, eggs laid into underside of leaves, larvae make mines beneath leaf surface, narrow at first expanding into a blotch. When mature, larvae brown with black heads, one or two per blotch. Before pupation, larvae cuts oval 6 mm diameter cases from the leaves, dropping on silken threads attaching them to bark or fallen leaves.
- Adults, small day-flying moth, brown wings with incomplete metallic white bands, and fringed hindwings.
- Cultural control: none recommended as insufficient evidence that moth effects yield.

Common Name

Noni shield-bearer moth. This fact sheet is a draft awaiting identification of the moth. Noni, *Morinda citrifolia*, is a fruit-bearing tree in the coffee family, Rubiaceae, used as a traditional medicine.

Scientific Name

Possibly, *Antispila* species. A moth in the Heliozelidae.

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Information from Charley Eiseman (2019) Leafminer of North America (1st Edition). (<http://charleyeiseman.com/leafminers/>); and Antispila. Wikipedia. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antispila>); and from Miller L. *et al.* (2018) A preliminary molecular phylogeny of shield-bearer moths (Lepidoptera: Adeloidea: Heliozelidae) highlights rich undescribed diversity. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 120:129-143.

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