



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

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### Sugarcane borer (277)



Photo 1. Larva of the sugarcane borer, *Chilo terrenellus*, inside the stem of sugarcane.



Photo 2. Damage by the sugarcane borer, *Chilo terrenellus*, weakens the internodes and makes the stems susceptible to breaking in high winds.



Photo 3. Adult sugarcane borer, *Chilo terrenellus*.

#### Summary

- Narrow distribution. Papua New Guinea and Australia. On sugarcane and relatives. An important pest.
- Eggs laid in clusters on leaves; larvae tunnel into stalks, killing growing points, or allowing entry of e.g., red rot fungus (**see Fact Sheet no. 221**). Change of varieties due to *Ramu stunt virus* increased damage by the moth.
- Spread of moth in infested cane for planting.
- Cultural control: remove volunteers preventing carry over between crops; ensure correct nutrients, N in particular; crop rotation; collect and burn trash after harvest; tolerant varieties.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

#### Common Name

Sugarcane borer, sugarcane internode borer

#### Scientific Name

*Chilo terrenellus*

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Information from Sallam MS, Allsopp PG (2002) BSS249 Preparedness for border incursion, *Chilo* incursion management plan. Version 1. BSES Publication Project Report PRO2008. Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, Queensland, Australia. (<http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Chilo-species-CP-2002.pdf>). Photos 1-3 Carmichael A, *et al.* (2012) Stem borer (*Chilo terrenellus*). PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>).

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

