

Banana scab moth (017)

Summary

- Narrow distribution. Asia, Oceania. On banana, plantains, *Heliconia*, *Pandanus*.
- Caterpillars feed on skin of the fruit, going from one bunch to the next as the leaves lift. The damaged fruit becomes rough, dark and scab-like as it ages.
- Cultural control: inspect the crop daily and before the flower stalks are horizontal, (i) partly or completely remove the leaves over the flowers, and (ii) spray the fruit with water or dust with ashes.
- Chemical control: (i) Biopesticides: spinosad or Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*); (ii) synthetic pesticides: inject with e.g., chlorpyrifos, bifenthrin, acephate into the upright bunch. Can also lift/remove leaves and dust or spray before the flower bends over.

Common Name

Banana scab moth

Scientific Name

Nacoleia octasema (previously, *Lamprosema octasema*)



Photo 1. Scabby areas on the skin of banana fruits due to the feeding of the scab moth, *Nacoleia octasema*.



Photo 4. A grey-pink version of the banana scab moth, *Nacoleia octasema*.



Photo 2. Caterpillar of the banana scab moth, *Nacoleia octasema*, between banana fingers. In this case, the caterpillar is dark brown.



Photo 5. An adult banana scab moth, *Nacoleia octasema*.



Photo 3. Two caterpillars of the banana scab moth, *Nacoleia octasema*, and large amounts of frass.



Photo 6. An adult banana scab moth, *Nacoleia octasema*.

(http://www.ces.csiro.au/aicn/name_c/a_228.htm).

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