Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

Cocoa pod borer (175)

Summary

- Widespread distribution. South and Southeast Asia, Oceania. Cocoa, Pacific lychee, rambutan, and cola are hosts. An important pest.
- The borer is a moth. Eggs laid on the pods 2-6 weeks before maturity; the larvae hatch, tunnel into the pod and feed around the beans. Pods ripen early.
- Considered one of the worse pest of cocoa, with losses of 20-50%.
- Biosecurity: follow international guidelines. Several biotypes; non-pest strains in some Pacific island countries.
- Cultural control: prune every 6 months to create open canopy on trees only 3 m high; pick pods as soon as yellow, and every 7 days, to interrupt life cycle of the moth; bury infested pods; area control is important, i.e., farmers in an area should all apply control measures simultaneously, otherwise moths will come from adjacent infested farms.
- Chemical control: none recommended.

Photo 1. Internal damage by larvae of cocoa pod borer, *Conopomorpha cramerella*.

Photo 2. Pupa of cocoa pod borer, *Conopomorpha cramerella*, inside a silk cocoon, on the underside of a leaf.

Photo 3. Adult cocoa pod borer, *Conopomorpha cramerella*, showing wing colouration and very long antennae.

Common Name

Cocoa pod borer

Scientific Name

Conopomorpha cramerella. It was previously known as *Acrocercops cramerella*.

Photo 4. Pods showing premature yellowing due to internal infestation of cocoa pod borer, *Conopomorpha cramerella*.

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Information from New Agriculturist *on-line*. (http://www.new-ag.info/00-1/develop/dev01.html); and CABI (2015) Conopomorpha cramerella (cocoa pod borer) Crop Protection Compendium. (https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/7017); and Yen JDL, et al. (2009) Cocoa pod borer *(Comopmorha cramerella* Snellen*)* in Papua New Guinea: Biosecirity models for New Ireland and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Risk Analysis (DOI: 10.1111/j.1539-6924.2009.01297.x); and from (including Photos 1&2) End MJ, *et al.* (Eds.) 2017. Technical guidelines for the safe movement of cacao germplasm. Revised from the FAO/IPGRI Technical Guidelines No. 20 (Third Update, October 2017). Global Cacao Genetic Resources Network (CacaoNet), Bioversity International, Rome, Italy. (https://www.cacaonet.org/fileadmin/templates/CacaoNet/Uploads/publications/Safe_Movement_Guidelines_2017_En.pdf). Photo 3 Smilja Lambert ABC *Rural Foreign aid to fight cocoa bug* (2012). Photo 4 *Cocoa pod borer.* Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Queensland Government.

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