

Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

Coconut flat moth (065)

Summary

- Narrow distribution. In Hawaii and Oceania. On coconuts and other palms. Occasionally serious on mature palms and seedlings, but effect on yield unknown.
- Larvae do the damage, making a protective fine web and eating the leaf from the underside. More abundant during dry weather.
- Natural enemies: several parasitoid wasp introductions have been made; also ants eat the eggs and spiders eat the adults.
- Cultural control: no recommendations.
- Chemical control: on mature palms pesticides unlikely to be economic, and will delay control by natural enemies; on seedlings, use synthetic pyrethroids, but they will also kill natural enemies.

Common Name

Coconut flat moth

Scientific Name

Agonoxena sp. The main pest species of Pacific Island countries is *Agonoxena argaula*.

Agonoxena pyrogramma also occurs.



Photo 1. Male adult, coconut flat moth, *Agonoxena argaula*.



Photo 2. Female adult, coconut flat moth, *Agonoxena argaula*.



Photo 4. Caterpillar, coconut flat moth, *Agonoxena argaula*.

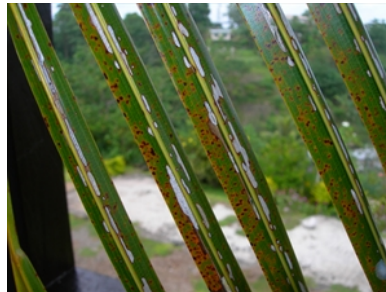


Photo 5. 'Windows' in coconut leaflets caused by the feeding of the coconut flat moth, *Agonoxena* species (probably,



Photo 6. 'Windows' in coconut leaflets caused by the feeding of the coconut flat moth, *Agonoxena* species. The caterpillar has chewed the surface of the leaf, leaving the small veins (probably, *Agonoxena pyrogramma*, Solomon Islands).



Photo 3. Eggs of coconut flat moth, *Agonoxena argaula*, on the underside of a sweet potato leaf.

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