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

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, Agonoxena argaula, Solomon Islands.

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.

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