# Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

## Crotalaria pod borer (394)

### Summary


- Worldwide distribution. In Oceania, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands. Possible biocontrol of *Crotalaria*, rattle pod, a poisonous weed to cattle.
- Young larvae eat leaves, older ones bore into stem.
- Eggs on top of leaves in rows along midrib. Larvae with black and white rings. Adults, orange with black spots on forewings.
- Said to be important in Fiji for checking spread of *Crotalaria*; Not thought effective in Australia.
- Management: No information.


### Common Name

Crotalaria pod borer, rattle-pod borer, black spotted moth.

### Scientific Name

*Argina astrea*. Previously known as *Argina cribraria*. It is a moth of the Erebidae, a family commonly known as 'tiger moths'.

Photo 1. Larvae of Crotalaria pod borer, *Agrina astrea*, and black patches of damage on leaves.

Photo 2. Damage to leaves and leaf stalks by the Crotalaria leaf borer, *Agrina astrea*.

Photo 3. Adult Crotalaria pod borer, *Agrina astrea*, showing black dots surrounded by white rings against the orange background of the forewings.

Photo 4. Deeper orange of hindwings with larger spots without white rings, compared to those of forewings.


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[1]Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. London; and The moths of Borneo. (https://www.mothsofborneo.com/part-6/contents.php). Photo 3 John Hill (2009) Photo of Argina astrea moth with closed wings. (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Argena_astrea_(Crotalaria_pod_borer,_Tiger_moth).jpg). Photo 4 Diorit (2011) Unbekannter Schmetterling aus dem Hochland von Madagaskar. (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Madagaskar_Schmetterling01052011.JPG).


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