

Mango flower webworm (334)

Summary

- Widespread distribution. On mango, other fruit trees, ornamentals, and weeds. Probably important, but several webworms on mango.
- Larvae web together flowers, young fruits and leaves; leaves rolled and larvae feed from inside.
- Eggs on undersides of leaves; larvae yellowish green, with heads and first two pairs of legs black. Adults pale brown with dark markings, up to 20 mm long.
- Natural enemies: not recorded in Pacific islands (but assumed present).
- Cultural control: prune trees giving sprays better access.
- Chemical control: use Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*): ensure good coverage of shoots and flowers; treat when larvae small, and when webbing first seen. Avoid pyrethroids and organophosphates: they will kill natural enemies.

Common Name

Mango flower webworm

Scientific Name

Dudua aprobola; previously known as *Platyplus aprobola*.

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¹Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London; and (plus Photo 1) Soumya BR et al. (2017) Diversity and economic status of Lepidopteran insect-pest on two major varieties of mango. *Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies* 5(3): 838-843. (<http://www.entomoljournal.com/archives/2017/vol5issue3/PartL/S-2-192-716.pdf>); and from *Dudua aprobola*, Wikipedia. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dudua_aprobola). Photo 2 *Dudua aprobola* (Meyrick) (2013). ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources. Photo 3 Gerald McCormack, Cook Islands Biodiversity & Natural Heritage. (<http://cookislands.bishopmuseum.org/>).

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Photo 1. Webbing of flowers by mango flower webworm, *Dudua aprobola*.



Photo 2. Larva of the mango webworm, *Dudua aprobola*.



Photo 3. Adult mango webworm, *Dudua aprobola*.

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