

Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds - Online edition

Ramie moth (358)

Summary

- Restricted distribution. Hosts are the nettle family (*Boehmeria* species). Ramie is a fibre crop, also used as fodder. In Fiji, on overripe bananas.
- Larvae defoliate plants, stripping leaves to the veins. Large, up to 10 cm, black and yellow with long white hairs. Moth has blue patterns on hindwings.
- Cultural control: avoid over overlapping crops, and planting new crops next to old; leave 3 months between crops; monitor x2 weekly, and consider hand picking (rather than insecticides); collect and burn crop remains after harvest.
- Chemical control: use botanicals to safeguard natural enemies (chillies, neem, derris, pyrethrum); in commercial plots, use microbials [spinosad, Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *kurstaki*)] sprays against caterpillars when young. Avoid pyrethroids and organophosphates.

Common Name

Ramie moth, banana moth (name given in this fact sheet). The name *ramie* is a common name for the main host, *Boehmeria nivea*.

Scientific Name

Arcte coerulea; previously, *Cocytodes coerulea*. It is a member of the Noctuidae.



Photo 1. Early-stage larvae of the ramie moth, *Arcte coerulea*, feeding together on underside of a leaf.



Photo 2. Early stages of the ramie moth, *Arcte coerulea*, make holes in the leaves.



Photo 4. Larva of the ramie moth, *Arcte coerulea*. Note the distinctive colours and long white hairs.



Photo 5. Larva of the ramie moth, *Arcte coerulea*.



Photo 3. Later-stage larvae of the ramie moth, *Arcte coerulea* strip the leaves, leaving only the main veins.

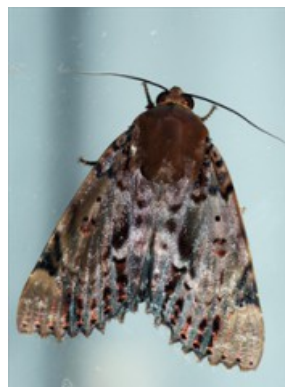


Photo 6. Adult ramie moth, *Arcte coerulea*.



Photo 7. Adult ramie moth, *Arcte coerula*, showing the colours of the wings.



Photo 8. The ramie moth, *Arcte coerula*, attracted to rotting bananas (Fiji).

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson & Mani Mua

Information Coffs Harbour Butterfly House. (<http://lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au/calp/coerulea.html>); and (Photos 1-3) from Liangbin Zeng, et al. (2016) Transcriptome analysis of ramie (*Boehmeria nivea* L. Gaud.) in response to ramie moth (*Cocytodes coerulea* Guenée) infestation. BioMed Research International. Article ID 3702789 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2016/3702789>). Photo 4 Masaki Ikeda, Japan. (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arcte_coerulea_larva_08Oct16.jpg). Photo 5 Patrick Randall, Ramie moth, *Arcte coerulea* (Guenee, 1952), Norwood, MA. (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/animalproject/6512086055/>). Photo 6 Alexey Yakovlev, Moscow, Russia. ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arcte_coerulea_\(Erebidae_Catocalinae\)_4199144357.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arcte_coerulea_(Erebidae_Catocalinae)_4199144357.jpg)). Photo 7 CSIRO/BIO Photography Group, Centre for Biodiversity Genomics. (http://v3.boldsystems.org/index.php/Taxbrowser_Taxonpage?taxid=308358).

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