

Tahitian chestnut moth (359)

Summary

- Restricted distribution. Asia, Africa, Oceania. Present in Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Vanuatu.
- A major pest. Larvae bore into fruits of Tahitian chestnut creating holes with frass, making them inedible. Light grey, up to 15 mm long, caterpillar with 8 spots on each segment. Moths, brown with yellow tips to forewings.
- Cultural control: ideally, remove fallen fruit - but trees grow wild so unlikely to make an impact.
- Chemical control: Not an appropriate measure: trees large, wild and larvae protected inside fruits.

Common Name

Tahitian chestnut fruit borer.

Scientific Name

Cryptophlebia pallimfimbriana. It is a moth of the Tortricidae



Photo 1. Fruit of Tahitian chestnut, *Inocarpus fagiferus*, with holes bored by the larvae of *Cryptophlebia pallimfimbriata*.



Photo 2. Larva of *Cryptophlebia pallimfimbriata* tunnelling into a Tahitian chestnut fruit, *Inocarpus fagiferus*.



Photo 4. Adult Tahitian chestnut moth, *Cryptophlebia pallimfimbriata* (Cook Islands).



Photo 5. Adult Tahitian chestnut moth, *Cryptophlebia pallimfimbriata* (Fiji).



Photo 3. Larva of *Cryptophlebia pallimfimbriata*, tunnelling in a fruit of Tahitian chestnut, *Inocarpus fagiferus*.

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¹Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London; and from *Cryptophlebia pallimfimbriana*. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cryptophlebia_pallimfimbriana. Photos 3&4 Gerald McCormack, Cook Islands Biodiversity & Natural Heritage. (<http://cookislands.bishopmuseum.org>).

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