

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



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.

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson & Mani Mua

¹Information 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:Argina_astrea_\(Crotalaria_pod_borer,_Tiger_moth\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Argina_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).

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project HORT/2016/18: *Responding to emerging pest and disease threats to horticulture in the Pacific islands*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Pacific Community.

Copyright © 2022. All rights reserved.



Australian Government
Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/pppw>