

## False codling moth

### What is the False codling moth?

The False codling moth (*Cryptophlebia leucotreta*) is an internal fruit feeding moth that can be found throughout the year in warm climates and has been recorded as feeding on over 50 different plant species. This moth causes economic loss in a range of crops in sub-Saharan Africa. Losses during infestations can be between 20-30%.

### What does it look like?

Adult moths are 15-16 mm (males) and 19-20 mm (female) in length. Forewings have grey, brown, black and orange-brown markings. A triangular marking on the outer part of the wing with a crescent shaped marking above it distinguishes the False codling moth from other species.

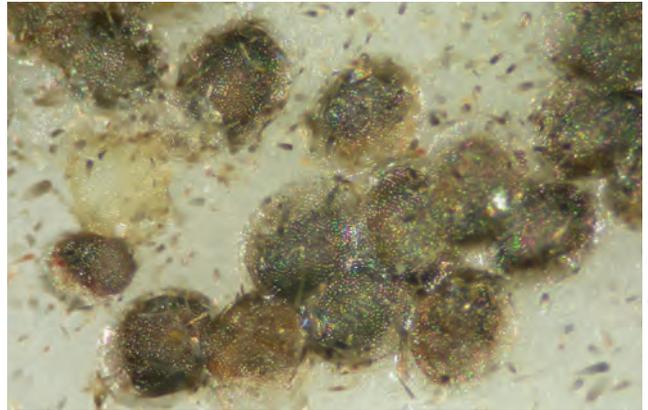
Young larvae are yellowish-white with dark spots but bright red or pink when fully grown (15 mm), with a yellow-brown head. Pupae are contained within a tough silken cocoon amongst debris or in the soil. Female moths lay 100-400 eggs (oval, flattened and almost 1 mm in length) singly on the fruits at night.

### What can it be confused with?

False codling moth can look similar to other moths but can be distinguished by the triangular marking near the edges of the wings.

### What should I look for?

The young larvae mine fruit just beneath the surface, or bore into the skin causing premature ripening of the fruit. When fully grown the larva descends to the ground on a silken thread and spins a tough silken cocoon, which can be seen in the soil or amongst debris.



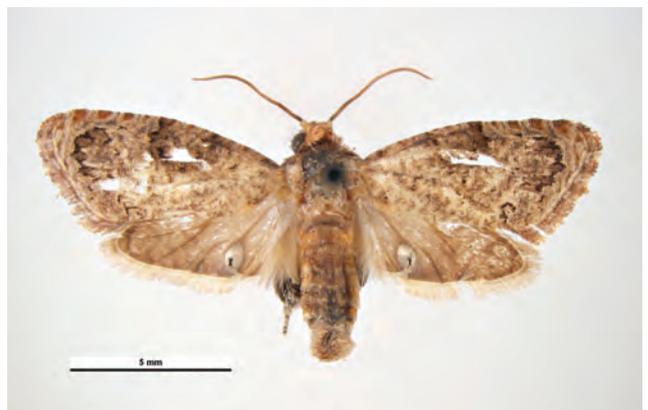
Eggs are oval shaped and almost 1 mm long

J.H. Holmeyer, Citrus Research International, Bugwood.org



False codling moth pupae

J.H. Holmeyer, Citrus Research International, Bugwood.org



Forewings are brown with black markings and white dots

Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org



### How does it spread?

The general means of dispersal of False codling moth is through the movement of fruit infested with larvae.

### Where is it now?

The False codling moth is widespread in Kenya and present throughout Africa.

### How can I protect my orchard from False codling moth?

Source plant material only from 'clean', accredited suppliers, and preferably material that is certified. Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common stone fruit insect pests so you can tell if you see something different.

**If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline**

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE  
1800 084 881**



Mating adult False codling moths

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Grown larvae are pink/red with yellow/brown heads

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