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Adult female pineapple fruit borer

Source: [Kim Davis & Mike](#)

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EXOTIC THREAT: PINEAPPLE FRUIT BORER

What is it?

The pineapple fruit borer (*Strymon megarus*) is considered one of the principal pests of pineapple in Brazil. The larvae bore into the fruit causing holes and uneven fruit development. Damage from this pest varies greatly but can reach more than 90% and drier climates seem to favour borer attack.

In most cases fruit borer attacks occur during flowering and formation of the fruit, though this borer can attack slips and rarely acts as a leaf miner.

What do I look for?

The adult moth has a greyish upper wing surface and a cream colour underneath with a wingspan of 28mm to 35mm.

The adult can be found during the day or night, flying in a rapid and haphazard fashion. Eggs are laid on flowers from emergence to the end of flowering.

Eggs are white, circular and slightly flat and approximately 0.8mm in diameter.

The reddish coloured caterpillar penetrates the inflorescence and remains in the tissue for 15 days, tunnelling and destroying the tissue. After this phase it moves to the base of the peduncle changing into a pupa 12mm long and 5mm wide with a brown colour and a few dark spots and emerges 7 to 10 days later as a butterfly.

As the caterpillar destroys the tissues of the inflorescence a resin coloured liquid gum is exuded from between the fruitlets, which in contact with the air becomes reddish coloured and as it solidifies, turns dark brown.



Adult male pineapple fruit borer

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Where is it found?

The pineapple fruit borer is currently found in all production regions in Brazil and occurs on the whole American continent.

Reporting

If you suspect you may have seen the pineapple fruit borer, you should report it immediately to maximise the chances of eradicating this pest before it can become established in Australia.

Growers may report suspected exotic pests to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline (1800 084 881) or can directly contact their relevant state agriculture or primary industries department.

To minimise the risk of disease spread, samples should not be moved until they have been checked by an expert.

This fact sheet is part of the Pineapple Industry Biosecurity Plan. For more information about the Biosecurity Plan, please contact Plant Health Australia.

Source

'ABACAXI Fitossanidade', 2000, *Embrapa Comunicação para Transferência de Tecnologia Brasília – DF, Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária, Embrapa Mandioca e Fruticultura, Ministério da Agricultura e do Abastecimento. Organizador: Aristóteles Pires de Matos. Translated by Roberto Marques and Simon Newett (DPI&F, Nambour) in 2008.*



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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