

Biosecurity

Mango Shoot Looper



Report

If you see any larvae that you suspect to be mango shoot looper, please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on **1800 084 881**.

Specimens for identification can be submitted to DITT Entomology, at Berrimah Agricultural Laboratories, Berrimah Farm Science Precinct:

Phone: 08 8999 2258

Email: insectinfo@nt.gov.au

Mango Shoot Looper

Mango shoot looper (MSL) is an invasive pest which has recently been found in Queensland at Mareeba, Mutchilba and Bibohra. It is a threat to commercial mango production.

MSL is a pest of mango and litchi. Other fruit trees with a similar growing habit such as rambutan, longan and cashew may be potential hosts.

MSL is found in N.E. Himalaya, Hong Kong, Sundaland, Philippines, Sulawesi, Guam and India.

Appearance and life cycle

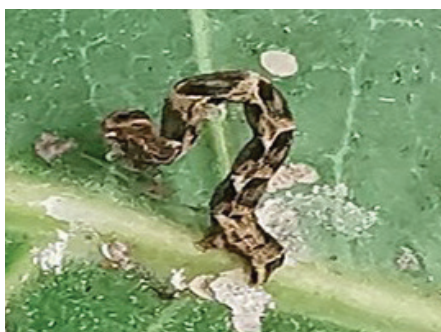
Female moths mainly lay eggs in abandoned or old spiderwebs, or webs with juveniles spiders near new flush.

Larvae which vary in colour from yellow, brown to black, with a mottled “tiger” patterned appearance move onto the leaves to feed, when mature they can be up to 22 mm in length. The pupae have a distinctive elongated triangular appearance, they are initially green turning brown as they mature and are up to 9 mm in length.

Female moths are pinkish in colour and the males are very pale brown or pinkish fawn. Males and females have three rows of brown patterns on the wings the last two having dark brown spots interspersed along the length. Wingspan 20mm across.



Mango shoot looper adult
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Mango shoot looper larva
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Mango shoot looper pupae
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Damage

Larvae feed on the top layer of the leaves giving them a skeletonised appearance. They also feed on young shoots, flower panicles and immature fruit.

Large populations can leave the panicles bare of any flowers or small fruit within a week. Larvae move in a “looping” fashion and can move to undamaged areas of the tree by suspending themselves on silken threads and dropping between branches. Pupae may be found in old spider webs as well as on the leaves. Severe infestations can cause 80-100% leaf and flower damage. It is most likely to be a problem during the flowering season.



Defoliated inflorescences
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Severe infestation of larvae
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For more information, go to daf.nt.gov.au

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
T: 08 8999 2258