



National Agricultural Research Institute

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## **Red Banded Mango Caterpillar (RBMC)**



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**August 2006**

## Introduction

There are a number of pests that affect mango. One of the most serious pests in Papua New Guinea is the Red Banded Mango Caterpillar (RBMC).

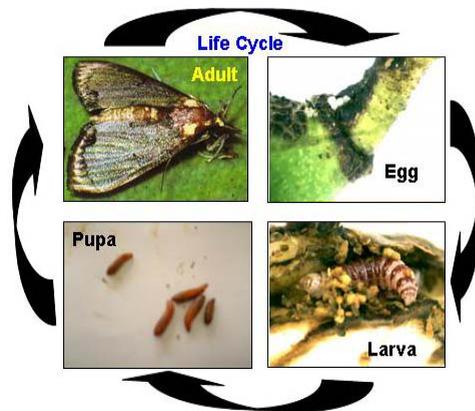
This caterpillar is found in some Asian countries, Torres Strait Island and most recently in Cape York Australia, causing a quarantine concern.

## What is Red Banded Mango Caterpillar?

It is a caterpillar that has red and white bands around the body. The adult moth has a slender body that is brown and creamy white in colour with yellow markings.

## Life Cycle

Eggs are laid close together on the stem of the fruit, which then hatches into larvae, than later pupates and emerges into adult moth.



## Damage caused by RBMC

Young caterpillar damage developing fruit by burrowing into the side or bottom of the fruit. Older caterpillars destroy the fruit by tunneling through to the seed and feeding on the kernel.



**Above:** RBMC feeding on the kernel  
**Below:** Signs of damaged fruit



## How to identify the damage

The most common sign of damage is the presence of holes with sap running down or black marks on the side or bottom of developing fruit.

## Host plants

Mango is the only host plant.

## Damage Levels

Research shows RBMC causes high crop loss in all mango varieties

## Pest Control

1. No cultural or biological control known as yet
2. Chemical control: Calypso (Thiacloprid)  
Rate: 18mls/50L water  
(Motorised hand sprayers)  
  
Rate: 7.2mls/20L of water  
(1 coke bottle top lid: 20L Knapsack sprayer)

Note: Chemical not registered in PNG. When registered, package will be suitable for use only in manageable orchard where motorized hand sprayers are used.