

# EPPO Datasheet: *Helicoverpa armigera*

Last updated: 2020-10-23

## IDENTITY

**Preferred name:** *Helicoverpa armigera*

**Authority:** (Hübner)

**Taxonomic position:** Animalia: Arthropoda: Hexapoda: Insecta: Lepidoptera: Noctuidae

**Other scientific names:** *Chloridea armigera* (Hübner), *Chloridea obsoleta* auctorum, *Heliothis armigera* (Hübner), *Heliothis obsoleta* auctorum

**Common names:** African cotton bollworm, Old World bollworm, corn earworm, cotton bollworm, tobacco budworm, tomato grub

[view more common names online...](#)

**EPPO Categorization:** A2 list

[view more categorizations online...](#)

**EPPO Code:** HELIAR



[more photos...](#)

## Notes on taxonomy and nomenclature

The genus *Helicoverpa* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) contains several polyphagous moths that cause severe negative impacts on agricultural crops worldwide during their larval development. *H. armigera* (Old World cotton bollworm) is the most widely distributed of these pests and causes the most severe economic damage. *H. armigera* is closely related to *H. zea* (New World corn earworm), sharing external morphology, overlapping bioclimatic niche use, and host range and cannot be distinguished with the naked eye (Mitchell & Gopurenko, 2016). The phenology of the species is poorly understood. Hardwick (1965) referred 17 species (including 11 new species) to the *Helicoverpa* species complex on the basis of differences in both male and female genitalia. *H. armigera* is considered a global pest with an ever-expanding distribution, possessing outstanding dispersal abilities and a broad feeding range. *H. armigera* is one of the most polyphagous species in the subfamily Heliethinae (Rajapakse & Walter 2007). Given the difficulty of distinguishing *Helicoverpa*/*Heliothis* species in the Heliethinae subfamily (with 381 species described), based on morphological characters (dissection of genitalia is required for identification), molecular markers are the best option for accurate detection of species in the *Helicoverpa* genus. In addition, *H. armigera* and *H. zea* can hybridize and produce fertile offspring (Nagoshi *et al.*, 2016, Cordeiro *et al.*, 2020), hence, *H. armigera* x *H. zea* hybrids might exist in the field, with unknown biological traits (e.g. resistance genes), and/or impacts in relevant crops. It is possible that *H. armigera* x *H. zea* hybrids could cryptically spread and avoid detection.

## HOSTS

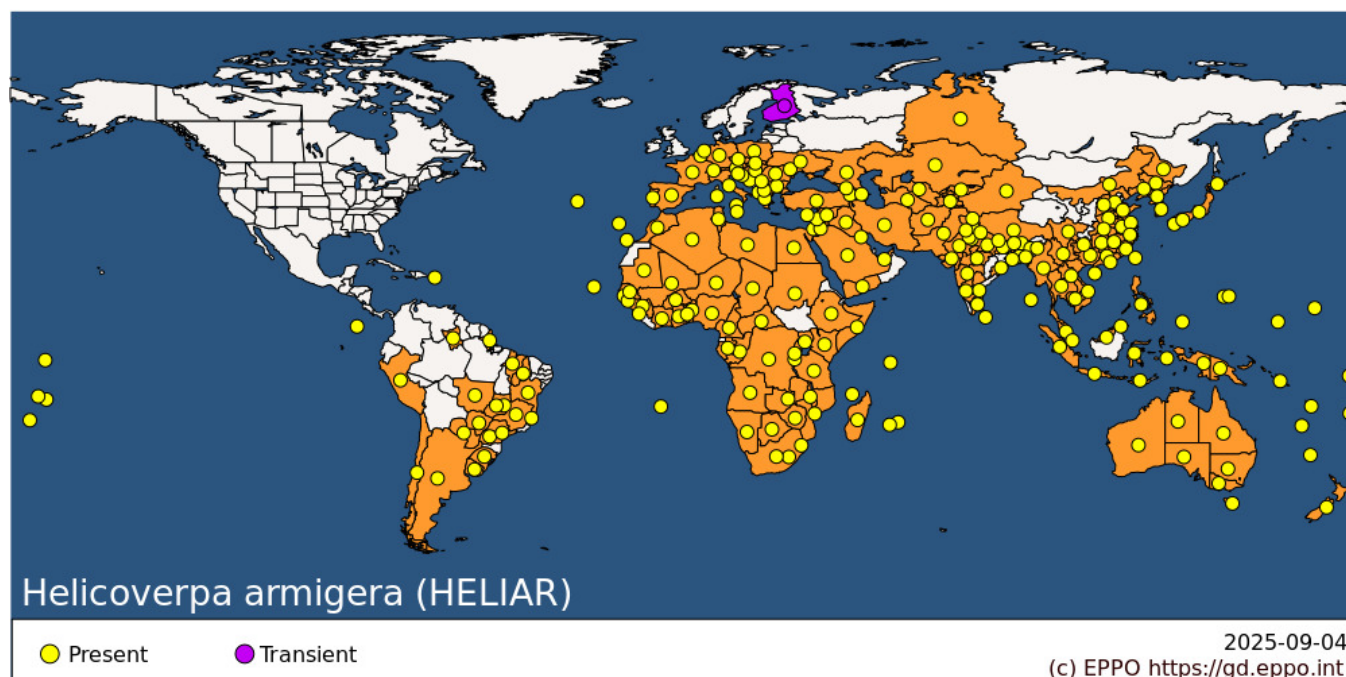
*H. armigera* is a highly polyphagous species, feeding primarily on ornamental plants and flowers. Asteraceae (N= 50 genera), Fabaceae (N=42 genera), and Poaceae (N=14 genera) are ranked as the top preference (Cunningham & Zalucki, 2014). It has a preference for nitrogen-rich, harvestable fruiting parts of valuable crops. Among the numerous economically important hosts are: cotton, tobacco, tomatoes, potatoes, maize, flax, soybean, sorghum, lucerne, *Phaseolus*, chickpeas, other Leguminosae, and a number of fruits (*Prunus*, *Citrus*) and forest trees.

**Host list:** *Abelmoschus esculentus*, *Aeschynomene indica*, *Allium cepa*, *Amaranthus* sp., *Antirrhinum majus*, *Arachis hypogaea*, *Asparagus officinalis*, *Avena sativa*, *Beta vulgaris*, *Brassica oleracea*, *Cajanus cajan*, *Cannabis sativa*, *Capsicum annuum*, *Carthamus tinctorius*, *Chamelaucium* sp., *Chrysanthemum x morifolium*, *Cicer arietinum*, *Citrullus lanatus*, *Citrus x limon*, *Coffea arabica*, *Cucumis sativus*, *Cucurbita maxima*, *Delphinium* sp., *Dianthus caryophyllus*, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Fragaria* sp., *Gladiolus* sp., *Glycine max*, *Gossypium hirsutum*, *Guizotia abyssinica*, *Helianthus annuus*, *Ipomoea batatas*, *Lablab purpureus*, *Lathyrus odoratus*, *Liatris* sp., *Limonium* sp., *Linum usitatissimum*, *Mangifera indica*, *Medicago sativa*, *Mentha spicata*, *Nicotiana tabacum*, *Ocimum* sp., *Oryza sativa*, *Phaseolus vulgaris*, *Pinus radiata*, *Pisum sativum*, *Ricinus communis*, *Sesamum indicum*, *Solanum lycopersicum*, *Solanum melongena*, *Solanum tuberosum*, *Sonchus oleraceus*, *Sorghum bicolor*, *Sphaeranthus indicus*

, *Spinacia oleracea*, *Triticum aestivum* subsp. *aestivum*, *Vigna radiata*, *Vigna unguiculata*, *Zea mays*

## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Commonly reported in the Old World (Europe, Africa, Asia) and Australasia, the migratory *H. armigera* has recently become established in Central and South America (Paraguay and Brazil, 2013? Argentina, Uruguay and Puerto Rico, 2014; Peru, 2016). In 2015, several specimens were trapped in Florida (US), but subsequent surveys confirmed that the pest did not establish (El-Lissy, 2015, Hayden & Brambila, 2015; NAPPO, 2016). Larvae intercepted at US and European ports suggest that the pest may be present in more countries in the Americas (Gilligan *et al.*, 2015, 2019). In the EPPO region, *H. armigera* is established only in the southern part where it can overwinter. In the northern part, only transient populations are found outdoors. Indoors, most of the pest findings are linked to imports of infested plant material and are subject to eradication measures.



**EPPO Region:** Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Finland, France (mainland), Georgia, Germany, Greece (mainland), Hungary, Israel, Italy (mainland, Sardegna, Sicilia), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Moldova, Republic of, Morocco, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal (mainland, Azores, Madeira), Romania, Russian Federation (the) (Southern Russia, Western Siberia), Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain (mainland, Islas Canárias), Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

**Africa:** Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Reunion, Rwanda, Saint Helena, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, United Republic of, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**Asia:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Neimenggu, Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan, Xianggang (Hong Kong), Xinjiang, Xizhang, Yunnan, Zhejiang), Cocos Islands, India (Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal), Indonesia (Irian Jaya, Java, Maluku, Nusa Tenggara, Sulawesi, Sumatra), Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Israel, Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Democratic People's Republic of, Korea, Republic of, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia (Sabah, Sarawak, West), Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan,

Vietnam, Yemen

**Central America and Caribbean:** Puerto Rico

**South America:** Argentina, Brazil (Amapa, Bahia, Distrito Federal, Espirito Santo, Goias, Maranhao, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Parana, Piaui, Rio Grande do Sul, Roraima, Sao Paulo), Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay

**Oceania:** American Samoa, Australia (New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia), Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Federated States of, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

## BIOLOGY

*H. armigera* possesses outstanding dispersal abilities. When ovipositing, females can move 5-10 km. They can also migrate over long distances (>100 Km) and aided by wind up to 2000 Km (Behere *et al.*, 2013). In addition, they have high fecundity (approximately 3000 eggs are laid per female over 10 days to 3 weeks). Eggs can hatch after 3 days if temperature is favorable (27-28°C). Adult emergence occurs from May to June, depending on latitude and can be seen up to October depending on suitable weather conditions. The broad host range of the species enables multiple choices for refugia during unfavorable conditions and allows persistence and geographic expansion. *H. armigera* has a short generation time, approximately 30 days in the field, and up to 12 generations per year with optimal temperate and tropical conditions (average 3-5 in Mediterranean and subtropical regions). The duration of the different life stages decreases as temperature rise, with an optimal of 32.5°C. Facultative diapause (genotypically variable) allows for the persistence of populations in the presence of harsh conditions.

*H. armigera* presents a broad preadaptation and resistance to synthetic pesticides and transgenic crops producing *Bacillus thuringiensis* toxins (*Bt* crops) (Downes *et al.*, 2010; Pearce *et al.*, 2017). *H. armigera* has a mutualistic symbiont virus (HaDNV-1) that enhances its resistance to baculoviruses and *Bt* toxin (Xu *et al.*, 2014). Insecticide resistance is more evident in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> instar larvae. Insecticide resistance has been extensively reported for synthetic pyrethroids (Tossou *et al.*, 2019). Resistance to other insecticides, e.g. endosulfan, carbamates and organophosphates has also been reported (Torres-Villa *et al.* 2002).

The life history and fecundity of *H. armigera* has been described in different main hosts plants. The development time (egg to adult emergence) was estimated at 15 days in chickpea, 12 in navy bean and cowpea and 11 in maize and soybean. The duration of the larval period is approximately 3 days in cowpea, chickpea and soybean, whereas in maize it is approximately 4 days. The motionless larval pre-pupal stage spans 13-14 days depending on the host plant, reaching 14.4 days on soybean. The pupal period is highest in maize (42.7 days) and lowest in chickpeas (35.2 days). Adult moths can live up to 52 days in maize and approximately 49 days in cowpea, soybean and chickpeas. Fecundity was recorded as highest in cowpea with 93 eggs/day and an overall 778 eggs gross fecundity; and lowest in maize, with 56 eggs/day and 417 gross fecundity (Fathipour *et al.*, 2020). Larvae reared on an artificial diet show a distinct host preference decreasing from tobacco to cotton, followed by tomato and chili pepper. Adult females prefer tobacco for oviposition (Hu *et al.*, 2018). Host preference is variable within the same host plant species. Different varieties of soybean influence the feeding preference and behaviour of larvae. Naseri *et al.* (2009) tested the feeding behavior, development time and mortality of *H. armigera* larvae in thirteen varieties of soybean finding differences in the duration of the development time (34 to 42 days); the larval period (17-23 days), the longevity of males (8.8 to 12.7 days) and females (8.4 to 10.9 days). Larvae mortality was very different depending on soybean variety, ranging from 8.3% to 29.6%.

## DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

### Symptoms

#### *On cotton*

Bore holes are visible at the base of flower buds, the latter being hollowed out. Bracteoles are spread out and curled downwards. Leaves and shoots may also be consumed by larvae.

### ***On tomatoes***

Young fruits are invaded and fall. Secondary infections by other organisms lead to rotting.

### ***On maize***

Cobs are invaded and developing grain is consumed. Secondary bacterial infections are common.

## **Morphology**

### ***Eggs***

Yellowish-white and glistening at first, changing to dark-brown before hatching; pomegranate-shaped, 0.4-0.6 mm in diameter; the apical area surrounding the micropyle is smooth, the rest of the surface sculptured in the form of approximately 24 longitudinal ribs, alternate ones being slightly shorter, with numerous finer transverse ridges between them; laid on plants which are flowering, or are about to produce flowers.

### ***Larva***

The first and second larval instars are generally yellowish-white to reddish-brown, without prominent markings; head, prothoracic shield, supra-anal shield and prothoracic legs are very dark-brown to black, as are also the spiracles and tuberculate bases to the setae, which give the larva a spotted appearance; prolegs (5 pairs) are present on the third to sixth, and tenth, abdominal segments. A characteristic pattern develops in subsequent instars. Fully-grown larvae are about 30-40 mm long; the head is brown and mottled; the prothoracic and supra-anal plates and legs are pale-brown, only claws and spiracles remaining black; the skin surface consists of close-set, minute tubercles. Crochets on the prolegs are arranged in an arc. The final body segment is elongated. Colour pattern: a narrow, dark, median dorsal band; on each side, first a broad pale band, then a broad dark band; on the lateral line, a broad, very light band on which the row of spiracles shows up clearly. The underside is uniformly rather pale. On the basic dorsal pattern, numerous very narrow, somewhat wavy or wrinkled longitudinal stripes are superimposed. Colour is extremely variable depending on diet, and the pattern described may be formed from shades of green, straw-yellow, and pinkish- to reddish-brown or even black.

### ***Pupa***

Mahogany-brown, 14-18 mm long, with smooth surface, rounded both anteriorly and posteriorly, with two tapering parallel spines at posterior tip.

### ***Adult***

Stout-bodied moth of typical noctuid appearance, with 3.5-4 cm wing-span; broad across the thorax and then tapering, 14-18 mm long; colour variable, but male usually greenish-grey and female orange-brown. Forewings have a line of seven to eight blackish spots on the margin and a broad, irregular, transverse brown band. Hindwings are pale-straw colour with a broad dark-brown border that contains a paler patch; they have yellowish margins and strongly marked veins and a dark, comma-shaped marking in the middle. Antennae are covered with fine hairs.

For more information, see Dominguez Garcia-Tejero (1957), Hardwick (1965), Cayrol (1972), Delatte (1973).

## **Detection and inspection methods**

The feeding larvae can be seen on the surface of plants, but they are often hidden within plant organs (flowers, fruits etc.). Bore holes may be visible, but otherwise it is necessary to cut open the plant organs to detect the pest in its larval stage. Larvae show a feeding preference for the reproductive parts of the host plant, and the lower surface of the leaves is a common preferred oviposition site.

Sex-pheromone traps (species, or genus specific traps) have replaced light traps (non-specific species traps) as the former provide a more effective tool to monitor adult moths. These traps facilitate identification and counting and

disrupt mating. Pheromone traps can also detect early spring emergence of adult moths thus assisting with control measures and distribution assessments (Reddy & Manjunatha, 2000; Baker *et al.*, 2011). Bucket traps with a pheromone bait have been reported as the most efficient traps to catch *Helicoverpa* moths, e.g. bucket trap (Guerrero *et al.*, 2014). For adult mass trapping, an average of 30-50 pheromone traps per hectare led to approximately 9000 adults/trap in infested tomato plantations (Shah *et al.*, 2017). Trap crops can attract, divert, intercept and retain *H. armigera*. Spring trap crops can attract *H. armigera* as they emerge from overwintering pupae and reduce the early season buildup of populations, as well as allowing early detection of the pest. Traps should be placed at 1.5 to 1.8 m above the ground (Aheer *et al.*, 2009).

Identification of all stages in the EPPO region will be difficult in the field should the very similar American (*H. zea*) or Australian (*H. punctigera*) species be introduced and become established. Separation of the adult from similar species is most reliably done by reference to the male genitalia (Hardwick, 1965; Pogue, 2004) or using molecular tests. Protocols for DNA barcoding based on COI are described in Appendix 1 of PM 7/129 and can be used to support the identification of *H. armigera* and *H. zea* specimens (EPPO, 2021). A multiplex real-time PCR test was also developed to distinguish *H. armigera* and *H. zea* (Gilligan *et al.* 2015). Given the known economic impact of the species worldwide, accurate identification is key to avoiding costly impacts in valuable economic crops.

The EPPO Diagnostic Protocol PM 7/19 provides recommendations on how to detect and identify *H. armigera* (EPPO, 2003). Possible confusions with other species including *H. zea* are also covered.

## **PATHWAYS FOR MOVEMENT**

The moths are facultative migrants. When conditions become unfavorable, adults can migrate over long distances, borne by wind, for example from southern Europe to the UK (Pedgley, 1985). In high-latitude regions without breeding populations, moths appear in late summer after days of southerly winds and air temperature above an 11°C threshold for larval development. In international trade, eggs and larvae of *H. armigera* can be transported with plants for planting, cut flowers and vegetables (EFSA, 2014). *H. armigera* is regularly intercepted on consignments of cuttings and cut flowers (e.g. chrysanthemums, *Dianthus*, roses), fruit and vegetables (e.g. capsicum, strawberries, maize cobs, mangoes, peas).

## **PEST SIGNIFICANCE**

### **Economic impact**

*H. armigera* has been reported causing serious losses throughout its range, in particular to cotton, tomatoes and maize. Estimated loss in crop productivity (e.g. maize, soybeans, tomatoes and cotton) in Asia, Europe, Africa and Australasia is greater than 2 Billion USD annually (Tay *et al.*, 2013). In India losses to pigeon pea and chickpea production surpassed 300 Million USD (Reed & Pawar, 1981). In Brazil, one year after detection, economic impact was estimated at 1 Billion USD (Mastrangelo *et al.*, 2014). Damage on soybeans in Brazil reached 100% in non-*Bt* soybeans.

For example, on cotton, two to three larvae on a plant can destroy all the bolls within 15 days; on maize, they consume grains; on tomatoes, they invade fruits, preventing development and causing fruit fall. An outbreak of this noctuid occurred on young *Pinus radiata* in New Zealand in 1969 and 1970, when the larvae consumed more than 50% foliage of about 60% trees. Damage has been reported in India on potatoes, sunflowers, *Guizotia abyssinica*, pigeon peas and cotton. Damage in cotton from *H. armigera* can be up to 100% in unmitigated fields.

In the EPPO region, *H. armigera* is of significant economic importance in Israel, Morocco, Portugal, Russia and Spain and of lesser importance in the other countries where it is established.

### **Control**

*H. armigera* is a difficult pest to control since it is highly polyphagous, its larvae live inside their host plants and it has developed resistance to numerous pesticides. Efforts are being made in many countries to control *H. armigera*, using both biological and chemical means. A combined Integrated Pest Management approach encompassing

multiple strategies in parallel, e.g. predators and parasitoids, as well as pathogens as biocontrol agents and crop management strategies (e.g. intercropping crops to sustain predators and parasitoids, trap crops), and the use of resistant plant cultivars is recommended and proven effective (Duraimurugan & Regupathy, 2005).

Natural enemies have been found, including egg, larval, and pupal parasitoids and predators. These include Braconidae, Ichneumonidae, Trichogrammatidae, Scelionidae, and Tachinidae. Predators include Chrysopidae, Nabidae, Anthoridae (*Orius* spp. and *Geocoris* spp.), Miridae, Coleoptera, and Araneae. Success has been achieved on specific crops with augmentative releases of natural enemies, and complex biocontrol systems incorporating several predators/parasitoids. In China, *Trichogramma chilonis* has been shown to be the main egg parasitoid of *H. armigera* in cotton (Liu *et al.*, 2016). Fathipour and Sederatian (2013) suggest that natural enemies provide considerable benefit in soybean, but cannot control *H. armigera* populations alone, especially in areas prone to migratory invasions. Moore *et al.* (2004) tested the potential of nuclear polyhedrosis virus (NPV) for the biocontrol of the pest in citrus tree, while Jeyarani *et al.* (2010) showed the same pattern for biocontrol in cotton and chickpeas. *B. thuringiensis* has been shown to considerably reduce European populations of *H. armigera* (Avilla *et al.*, 2005). Recently (Chen *et al.*, 2020) a new virus with potential for biocontrol of *H. armigera* has been identified, *Heliothis virescens ascovirus 3i* (HvAV-3i).

The use of resistant crop plants, e.g. chickpea cultivars (*Cicer arietinum*) in combination with *B. thuringiensis* has also been an effective biocontrol strategy for larvae of *H. armigera* (Devi, 2011) although resistance to *Bt* transgenic cotton has also been reported (Gunning *et al.*, 2005). Overwintering pupae can be controlled by ploughing in the fall and winter, in late maturing crops, exposing the pupae to heat and predation (Duffield, 2004).

Many crop management strategies commonly used to improve health of crops also apply to the control of *H. armigera*. Proper tillage, irrigation, destruction of crop residues and crop rotation can substantially help keep populations under an economical threshold level. Summer trap crops can divert *H. armigera* from an economically important crop. These trap crops have also been utilized to enhance populations of natural enemies. A sorghum trap crop, used to manage *H. armigera*, increased rates of parasitism by *Trichogramma chilonis* in the pest population (Virk *et al.*, 2004). These trap crops must be destroyed prior to the pupation of *H. armigera* larvae to halt the progression of the pest.

### Phytosanitary risk

*H. armigera* is a polyphagous pest which can attack many crops of economic importance in the EPPO region (e.g. maize, tomato and several vegetable crops, ornamentals). Although it is certainly a serious outdoor pest in Mediterranean countries, quarantine status mainly arises from the risk of introduction into glasshouse crops in northern Europe, however current global climate trends could shift and/or expand the distribution of the species. Reports of *H. armigera* being caught in light traps during the summer in northern EU countries, such as Sweden, the UK and The Netherlands (Franzen, 2004; Vos, 2000, 2003; Pedgley, 1985; Waring, 2006) attests that the species can move to higher latitudes. Facultative diapause present in this species could facilitate adaptation to more extreme seasonal temperatures. CLIMEX (bioclimatic niche model) has been used to estimate the climatic suitability for *H. armigera* globally and corroborates these statements (Kriticos *et al.*, 2015). The suitable areas for expansion based on the existence of suitable crops, irrigation patterns, cold stress mechanisms, and heat stress accumulation rates using CLIMEX predicts a broader distribution of the pest ranging from South America to North America (up to the border with Canada), Southern Africa to Northern Europe and Southern Russia, Eastern Asia and Australia.

## PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Imported plants for planting should derive from an area where *H. armigera* does not occur or from a place of production where *H. armigera* has not been detected during the previous 3 months.

## REFERENCES

Aheer GM, Ali A, Akram M (2009) Effect of weather factors on populations of *Helicoverpa armigera* moths at cotton-based agro-ecological sites. *Entomological Research* **29**, 36-42



- Avilla C, Vargas-Osuna E, Gonzalez-Cabrera J, Ferre J, Gonzalez-Zamora JE (2005) Toxicity of several  $\beta$ -endotoxin of *Bacillus thuringiensis* against *Helicoverpa armigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) from Spain. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology* **90**, 51-54.
- Behere GT, Tay WT, Russell DA, Kranthi KR, Batterham P (2013) Population genetic structure of the cotton bollworm *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in India as inferred from EPIC-PCR DNA markers. *PLoS ONE* **8**, e53448.
- Baker GH, Tann CR, Fitt GP (2011) A tale of two trapping methods: *Helicoverpa* spp. (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae) in pheromone and light traps in Australian cotton production systems. *Bulletin of Entomological Research* **101**, 9-23.
- Cayrol RA (1972) Famille des Noctuidae. Sous-famille des Melicleptriinae. *Helicoverpa armigera* Hb. In: *Entomologie appliquée à l'agriculture* (Ed. by Balachowsky AS) vol. 2, pp. 1431-1444. Masson et Cie, Paris, France.
- Chen G, Liu H, Mo B-C, Hu J, Liu S-Q, Bustos-Segura C, Xue J, Wang X (2020) Growth and development of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) larvae infected by *Heliothis virescens ascovirus* 3i (HvAV-3i). *Frontiers in Physiology* **11**, 93. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fphys.2020.00093>
- Cordeiro EMG, Pantoja-Gomez L, de Paiva JB (2020) Hybridization and introgression between *Helicoverpa armigera* and *H. zea*: an adaptational bridge. *BMC Evolutionary Biology* **20**, 1-12.
- Cunningham JP, Zalucki MP (2014) Understanding heliothine (Lepidoptera: Heliothinae) pests: what is a host plant? *Journal of Economic Entomology* **107**, 881–896.
- Delatte R (1973) Parasites et maladies en culture cotonnière. *Manuel Phytosanitaire, Division de Documentation, IRCT*, pp. 73-78.
- Devi VS, Sharma HC, Rao PA (2011) Interaction between host plant resistance and biological activity of *Bacillus thuringiensis* in managing the pod borer *Helicoverpa armigera* in chickpea. *Crop Protection* **30**, 962-969.
- Dominguez Garcia-Tejero F (1957) [Bollworm of tomato, *Heliothis armigera* Hb. (= *absoluta* F.) In: *Plagas y enfermedades de las plantas cultivadas* (Ed. by Dossat, S.A.), pp. 403-407. Madrid, Spain.
- Downes SJ, Mahon R, Rossiter L, Kauter G, Leven T, Fitt G, Baker G (2010) Adaptive management of pest resistance by *Helicoverpa* species (Noctuidae) in Australia to the Cry2Ab Bt toxin in Bollgard IHH cotton. *Evolutionary Applications* **3**, 574-584.
- Duffield SJ (2004) Evaluation of the risk of overwintering *Helicoverpa* spp. pupae under irrigated summer crops in south-eastern Australia and the potential for area-wide management. *Annals of Applied Biology* **144**, 17-26.
- Duraimurugan D, Regupathy DP (2005) Push-pull strategy with trap crops, neem and nuclear polyhedrosis virus for insecticide resistance management in *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner) in cotton. *American Journal of Applied Science* **2**, 1042-1048.
- El-Lissy O (2015) Detection of Old World bollworm (*Helicoverpa armigera*) in Florida. ([http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/owb/downloads/DA-2015-43.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/owb/downloads/DA-2015-43.pdf)) [accessed on 4 September 2019].
- EFSA (2014) EFSA PLH Panel. Scientific Opinion on the pest categorisation of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner). *EFSA Journal* **12**(10), 3833, 28 pp. <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.2903/j.efsa.2014.3833> [accessed on 17 September 2019].
- EPPO (2003) EPPO Standards. Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests. PM 7/ 19 *Helicoverpa armigera*. *EPPO Bulletin* **33**, 245-247.
- EPPO (2021) EPPO Standards. Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests. PM 7/ 129 DNA barcoding as an identification tool for a number of regulated pests. *EPPO Bulletin* **51**(1), 100-143 .

- Fathipour Y, Sedaratian A (2013) Integrated management of *Helicoverpa armigera* in soybean cropping systems, Soybean - Pest Resistance, Hany A. El-Shemy, IntechOpen, doi 10.5772/54522. Available from: <https://www.intechopen.com/books/soybean-pest-resistance/integrated-management-of-helicoverpa-armigera-in-soybean-cropping-systems> [accessed on 18 September 2020]
- Fathipour Y, Bagheri F, Bagheri A, Naseri B (2020) Development, reproduction and life table parameters of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) on five main host plants. *Journal of Crop Protection* **9**, 551-561.
- Franzen M (2004) Interesting Macrolepidoptera finds in Sweden 2003. *Entomologisk-Tidskrift* **125**, 27-42 (abstract).
- Gilligan TM, Tembrock LR, Farris RE, Barr NB, van der Straten MJ, van de Vossen BTLH, Metz-Verschure E (2015) A multiplex real-time PCR assay to diagnose and separate *Helicoverpa armigera* and *H. zea* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in the New World. *PLoS One* **10**, e0142912.
- Gilligan TM, Goldstein PZ, Timm AE, Farris R, Ledezma L, Cunningham AP (2019) Identification of heliothine (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) larvae intercepted at U.S. ports of entry from the New World. *Journal of Economic Entomology* **112**, 603-615.
- Guerrero S, Brambila J, Meagher RL (2014) Efficacies of four pheromone-baited traps in capturing male *Helicoverpa* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) moths in Northern Florida. *Florida Entomologist* **97**, 1671-1678.
- Gunning RV, Dang HT, Kemp FC, Nicholson IA, Moores GD (2005) New resistance mechanism in *Helicoverpa armigera* threatens transgenic crops expressing *Bacillus thuringiensis* Cry1Ac toxin. *Applied Environmental Microbiology* **71**, 2558-2563.
- Hardwick DF (1965) The corn earworm complex. *Memoirs of the Entomological Society of Canada* **40**, 1-247.
- Hardwick DF (1970) A generic revision of the North American Heliothidinae (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae). *Memoirs of the Entomological Society of Canada* **73**, 1-59.
- Hayden J, Brambila J (2015) Pest alert: *Helicoverpa armigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), the Old World bollworm. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. (<https://www.fdacs.gov/ezs3download/download/61696/1411969/Media/Files/Plant-Industry-Files/Pest-Alerts/PEST%20ALERT%20Helicoverpa%20armigera-1.pdf>) [accessed on 4 September 2020]
- Hu P, Li H-l, Zhang H-f, Luo Q-w, Guo X-r, Wang G-P, Wei-Zheng L, Yuan G (2018) Experience-based mediation of feeding and oviposition behaviors in the cotton bollworm: *Helicoverpa armigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae). *PLoS ONE* **13**(1), e0190401.
- Jeyarani S, Sathiah N, Karuppuchamy P (2010) Field efficacy of *Helicoverpa armigera* nucleopolyhedron virus isolates against *H. armigera* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) on cotton and chickpea. *Plant Protection Science* **46**, 116-122.
- Kriticos DJ, Ota N, Hutchison WD, Beddow J, Walsh T, Tay WT, Borchert DM, Paula-Moreas SV, Czapak C, Zalucki MP (2015) The potential distribution of invading *Helicoverpa armigera* in North America: is it just a matter of time? *PLoS One* **10**, e0119618.
- Liu B, Yang L, Yang F, Wang Q, Yang YZ, Lu YH, Gardiner MM (2016) Landscape diversity enhances parasitism of cotton bollworm (*Helicoverpa armigera*) eggs by *Trichogramma chilonis* in cotton. *Biological Control* **93**, 15-23
- Mastrangelo T, Paulo DF, Bergamo LW, Moraes EGF, Silva M, Bezerra-Silva G, Azeredo-Espin AMI (2014) Detection and genetic diversity of a heliothine invader (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) from north and northeast of Brazil. *Journal of Economic Entomology* **107**, 970-980.
- Mitchell A, Gopurenko D (2016) DNA Barcoding the Heliothinae (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) of Australia and utility of DNA barcodes for pest identification in *Helicoverpa* and relatives. *PLoS ONE* **11**, e0160895.



- Moore SD, Pittaway T, Bouwer G, Fourie JG (2004) Evaluation of *Helicoverpa armigera* nucleopolyhedron virus (HearNPV) for control of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) on citrus in South Africa. *Biocontrol Science and Technology* **14**, 239-250.
- Nagoshi RN, Gilligan TM, Brambila J (2016) Combining *Tpi* and *COI* genetic markers to discriminate invasive *Helicoverpa armigera* from local *Helicoverpa zea* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) populations in the Southeastern United States. *Journal of Economic Entomology* **109**, 2115-2124.
- Naseri B, Fathipour Y, Moharramipour S, Hosseiniaveh V (2009) Comparative life history and fecundity of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) on different soybean varieties. *Entomological Science* **12**, 147-154.
- NAPPO Phytosanitary Pest Alert System. Official Pest Reports. USA (2016-07-11) *Helicoverpa armigera* (Old World Bollworm) in Florida deemed an isolated regulatory incident. <https://www.pestalerts.org/official-pest-report/helicoverpa-armigera-old-world-bollworm-florida-deemed-isolated-regulatory> [accessed on 14 September 2020].
- Pearce SL, Clarke DF, East PD, Elfekih S, Gordon KHJ, Jermin LS, McGaughan A, Oakeshott JG, Papanikolaou A, Perera OP *et al.* (2017) Genomic innovations, transcriptional plasticity and gene loss underlying the evolution and divergence of two highly polyphagous and invasive *Helicoverpa* pest species. *BMC Biology* **15**, 63.
- Pedgley DE (1985) Windborne migration of *Heliothis armigera* to the British Isles. *Entomologist's Gazette* **36**, 15-20.
- Pogue MG (2004) A new synonym of *Helicoverpa zea* (Boddie) and differentiation of adult males of *H. zea* and *H. armigera* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae: Heliothinae). *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* **97**(6), 1222-1226.
- Rajapakse CNK, Walter GH (2007) Polyphagy and primary host plants: oviposition preference versus larval performance in the lepidopteran pest *Helicoverpa armigera*. *Arthropod-Plant Interactions* **1**, 17-26.
- Reed W, Pawar CS (1981) *Heliothis*, a global problem. Proceedings of the International Workshop on *Heliothis* Management, November 15-20, 1981, Hyderabad, India, pp. 9-14.
- Reddy GVP, Manjunatha M (2000) Laboratory and field studies on the integrated pest management of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner) in cotton, based on pheromone trap catch threshold level. *Journal of Applied Entomology* **124**, 213-221.
- Shah KD, Jhala RC, Dhandge SR (2017) Standardization of pheromone traps for the mass trapping of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner) Hardwick in tomato. *Current Agriculture Research Journal* **5**, 45-49.
- Tay WT, Soria MF, Walsh T, Thomazoni D, Silvie P, Behere GT, Anderson C, Downes S (2013) A brave New World for an Old World pest: *Helicoverpa armigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in Brazil. *PLoS One* **8**, e80134.
- Tembrock LR, Timm AE, Zink FA, Gilligan TM (2019) Phylogeography of the recent expansion of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in South America and the Caribbean Basin. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* **112**(4), 388-401.
- Torres-Vila LM, Rodríguez-Molina MC, Lacasa-Plasencia A, Bielza-Lino P (2002) Insecticide resistance of *Helicoverpa armigera* to endosulfan, carbamates and organophosphates: The Spanish case. *Crop Protection* **21**, 1003-1013.
- Tossou E, Tapa-Yotto G, Kpindou OKD, Sandeu R, Datinon B, Zeukeng F, Akoton R, Tchigossou G M, Djègbè I, Vontas J, Martin T, Wondji C, Tamò M, Bokonon-Ganta AH, Djouaka, R (2019) Susceptibility profiles of *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) to deltamethrin reveal a contrast between the Northern and the Southern Benin. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* **16**, 1882.
- Virk JS, Brar KS, Sohi AS (2004) Role of trap crops in increasing parasitism efficiency of *Trichogramma chilonis*

Ishii in cotton. *Journal of Biological Control* **18**, 61-64.

Vos R de (2000) Trekvlinders in 1999 (zestigste jaarverslag) (Lepidoptera) [Migrating lepidoptera in 1999 (sixtieth report).] *Entomologische Berichten* **60**(12), 217-230.

Vos R de (2003) Migrating Lepidoptera in 2000 and recent adventive records. Sixtyfirst report. *Entomologische Berichten* **63**(1), 14-20.

Waring P (2006) Moth report. British Wildlife. December 2006.

Xu P, Liu Y, Graham RI, Wilson K, Wu K (2014) Densovirus is a mutualistic symbiont of a global crop pest (*Helicoverpa armigera*) and protects against a baculovirus and Bt biopesticide. *PLoS Pathogens* **10**, e1004490.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This datasheet was extensively revised in 2020 by Dr Jose A. P. Marcelino, at the University of Florida. His valuable contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

## How to cite this datasheet?

EPPO (2025) *Helicoverpa armigera*. EPPO datasheets on pests recommended for regulation. Available online. <https://gd.eppo.int>

## Datasheet history

This datasheet was first published in the EPPO Bulletin in 1981 and revised in the two editions of 'Quarantine Pests for Europe' in 1992 and 1997, as well as in 2020. It is now maintained in an electronic format in the EPPO Global Database. The sections on 'Identity', 'Hosts', and 'Geographical distribution' are automatically updated from the database. For other sections, the date of last revision is indicated on the right.

CABI/EPPO (1992/1997) *Quarantine Pests for Europe* (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition). CABI, Wallingford (GB).

EPPO (1981) Data sheets on quarantine organisms No. 110, *Helicoverpa armigera*. *Bulletin OEPP/EPPO Bulletin* **11** (1), 1-6.



Co-funded by the  
European Union