






Technical Bulletin for: South African Cossid Moth

Coryphodema tristis (Felder) • Lepidoptera, Cossidae • CORTRI



DISTRIBUTION	Botswana & South Africa
HOSTS	Various Species, including those of the Quince, White Mangrove, Mallow, Rose, Elm and Zelkova families, and species of grapevine and creeper.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult	Wingspan is 25-50 mm. Body is grayish brown in color, the front wings are mottled brown and hindwings are mottled light gray.
Larvae	30-40 mm long when fully grown. Brown head and light yellowish body with red spots at maturity.
Eggs	About 1 mm in length, oval in shape and with a dull-cream-colored body.
LIFE HISTORY	Adult female cossid moths lay eggs on the bark of trees, usually in a sheltered place such as cracks in the bark. Upon emergence, larvae bore through bark and feed on the cambium. As the larvae grow, they bore into the wood, where they cause extensive tunneling. Larvae feeding in the cambium and the extensive tunneling in the sapwood and heartwood results in severe damage to trees, which often also die. Both the main trunks and branches are attacked. Trees from five to fourteen years old have been infested, but it is likely that the cossid will infest both younger and older trees, provided the diameters of the trunks / branches are sufficient to enable the larvae to feed. Pupation occurs in pupal cocoons constructed inside the larval tunnels. Just prior to adult emergence, the pupae cut themselves out of the cocoons and wriggle towards the tunnel openings until their bodies project halfway out the tree. The life cycle lasts approximately two years, with one generation occurring in that span of time.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	E9-14Ac and Z9-14Ac in a Red Rubber Septum. Lure longevity: 30 days.	
TRAP TO USE	Green or Multi-color Uni Trap	 
MONITORING STRATEGY	Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Debark or wholly remove infested trees to prevent the next generation from propagating as much as possible. Less severe infestations, such as those to branches, may be controlled by excising and incinerating the aforementioned infested branches.	

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