





Technical Bulletin for: Lesser Cornstalk Borer

Elasmopalpus lignosellus (Blanchard) • Lepidoptera, Pyralidae • ELALIG



DISTRIBUTION	Southern United States, Central America, South America, also on the Bahamas
HOSTS	Wide arrange of plants, including beans, cabbage, beet, cowpea and pepper
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	The wingspan is 17–25 mm. Adults are generally brownish with narrow and elongate forewings with oblique distal margins. The forewings are yellow ocher to light brown in males and dark brown in females. The hindwings are whitish with gray to brown anterior and distal margins.
Larvae	6 Instars, though there may be 5-9 depending on environment. Start off yellowish green with reddish dorsal pigmentation, gaining whitish longitudinal stripes as they mature, also turning bluish green.
Eggs	Oval, about 0.6 mm in length and 0.4 mm in width. Start off greenish, then turning pinkish, then reddish. A single female can lay up to 200 eggs; the egg stage is roughly 2-3 days.
LIFE HISTORY	There are three to four generations annually in the southeast, but in the southwest there are only three generations annually. Activity extends from June to November, with the generations overlapping considerably and little evidence of breaks between generations. Overwintering occurs in the larval and pupal stage in the soil, and diapause is not present. A complete life cycle usually requires 30 to 60 days. Adults emerge in the spring at night with temperatures above 27°C, laying eggs on the host plant

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Z-7-14Ac, Z-9-14Ac, Z-11-16Ac, and Z-9-14OH in a Red Rubber Septum. Lure longevity: Thirty (30) days.	
TRAP TO USE	Paper/Plastic Delta Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Hang traps near plants from June through November.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Tillage and destruction of weeds are recommended prior to planting because this helps to destroy larvae that may be present in the soil and might damage seedlings, the stage most susceptible to destruction. Early planting helps reduce some damage. Check for wilting foliage, and around the base of seedlings, remove infested plants as necessary.	

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