





Technical Bulletin for: Banana Moth

Opogona sacchari (Bojer) • Lepidoptera, *Tineidae* • OPOSAC



DISTRIBUTION	Tropical and sub-tropical Africa, Brazil, Central America. Has been found in greenhouses in Poland and Portugal.
HOSTS	Banana, coffee, bamboo, sugarcane, pineapple and some palm species.
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT MOTH	Dark grayish-brown with a small black spot on the forewing. Usually about 12 mm in length.
LARVAE	Dirty-white and somewhat transparent with a bright reddish-brown head, typically measure 21-36 mm in length.
EGGS	Light yellow and very small, only 0.5 mm long
LIFE HISTORY	Banana moths are never found outside the plant tissue but depending on the crop the larva will feed on different parts of the plant. As the caterpillars continue to feed their body size will increase. In the last larval stage, the caterpillar will be 26-32 mm in length. At this point the larva stops feeding and spins a white silken cocoon 16 mm in length. The white cocoon is covered with plant debris and frass making it dark in color. In cane crops these can be easily found by pulling the bark off infected cane. Once in the pupal case it takes 21-26 days for the developing larva to emerge as an adult. The moth can complete its life cycle in 50 days. This means to a grower that there can be 7-8 generations per year in greenhouse conditions.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE, FIELD LIFE	(Z)-11-Hexadecenal on a Red Rubber Septum. Lure Longevity: Four (4) weeks.	
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	In smaller fields, use one trap every 1 to 1 ½ acre. A minimum of two traps should also be used for fields of uneven topography. For larger fields (10 acres or greater) use 1-2 traps per five acres. Traps should be placed at approximately the same height as the crop. Traps should be checked weekly or more frequently, depending on pest population. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROLS	Avoid plant stress such over-pruning, under or over watering, etc. Remove and destroy infested plants. Do not drive nails into plants and avoid other plant or stem injuries.	

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