







Technical Bulletin for: Pink Maize Borer

Sesamia calamistis (Hampson) • Lepidoptera, Noctuidae • SESCAL



DISTRIBUTION	Sub-Saharan Africa, some Indian Ocean islands.
HOSTS	Maize, sorghum, pearl millet, wheat, rice, and sugarcane.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	Wingspan: ~20-30mm, pale-brownish forewings, white hindwings.
Larvae	Smooth & shiny, lacking visible hairs or markings. Generally creamy-white with distinctive pink suffusion, with a brown head.
Eggs	Hemispherical, slightly flattened, with a diameter of 1mm. Creamy white when laid but darken as they develop. Laid in batches of 10-40, totaling 300
LIFE HISTORY	Eggs are laid on plants that are between 2 weeks old and flowering. Larvae penetrate the stem and tunnel after hatching. Development takes 6 weeks w/ pupation inside the stem. Breeds year round with no diapause.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Z-11-16Ac and Z-9-14Ac in a Red Rubber Septum. Lure longevity: Thirty (30) days. 
TRAP TO USE	Paper/Plastic Delta Trap or Uni Trap   
MONITORING STRATEGY	Hang traps near affected crops. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Intercrop maize with non-hosts crops like cassava or legumes like cowpea, or with a repellent plant such as silver leaf desmodium (<i>Desmodium uncinatum</i>) and a trap plant, such as Napier grass (<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>), molasses grass (<i>Melinis minutiflora</i>), used as a border crop around this intercrop to protect maize from stemborers.

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Alpha Scents, Inc., 360 S. Sequoia Pkwy. Canby, OR 97013
TEL: 503-342-8611 • FAX: 314-271-7297 • sales@alphascents.com • www.alphascents.com