





Technical Bulletin for: Avocado Seed Moth

Stenoma catenifer (Walsingham) • Lepidoptera, *Depressariidae* • STECAT



DISTRIBUTION	Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela. Has also been recorded in Brazil and the Galápagos Islands
HOSTS	Avocado and other species of Laurel.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult	Moths are light tan color, and wings are marked with numerous black spots. Adult females are about 15 mm in length (tip of head to tip of wings) when in the resting position with wings folded across the dorsum. Wing span for females with forewings fully spread is around 28–30 mm in breadth. Males tend to be slightly smaller (2–3 mm shorter) than females and are similarly colored
Larvae	Fully grown larval length 20 – 25 mm. Body creamy white when newly emerged, becoming light rose by the 3rd instar. The dorsal side becomes violet and the ventral side, greenish blue by the 5th instar. Head light brown, turning black by the 5th instar with blackish eyespots and mandibles.
Eggs	Light green when first laid, oval, 0.6 by 0.4 mm with corium transparent at first then cream colored. Laid in total from 180-240.
LIFE HISTORY	Adults are active at night. Females oviposit on either the fruit crevices or on branches near where the fruit is attached. Larvae hatch in 5-6 days and tunnel into fruit pulp, feeding on the seeds, which may be devoured in 20 days, or young branches, twigs and stems. After 21-28 days, larvae drop to the ground to pupate. The entire life cycle lasts 44-49 days.

MONITORING INFORMATION

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, LURE, FIELD LIFE	(9Z)-9-13-tetradecadien-11-ynal in a Gray Rubber Septum. Lure Longevity: 30 days.	
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap or Wing Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Hang traps inside tree canopy at about 1.75-2 m off the ground. When trapping for multiple species, space traps out by at least 20 m. Otherwise, roughly 10-13 randomly dispersed traps, regardless of orchard or stand size, can guarantee capture of at least one male moth. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Inspect trees for damage to fruit and stems, notably bore-holes in fruit and seed cavities filled with frass instead of a seed, which may also occasionally contain pupae or active larvae. Remove of infested fruits or prune infested branches and incinerate them. Survey can be conducted year-round, as the moths are present without an overwintering cycle	

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