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### Cutworms

Pink cutworm (*Agrotis munda*) larvae were identified causing concerning levels of damage to a 3-4 leaf wheat crop north of **Buckleboo**, Eyre Peninsula (Amy Murray, Agsave Merchandise). Cutworms have also damaged a barley crop at **Booborowie**, warranting control (Craig Wissell, Team Wiss), and been observed feeding on volunteer canola within a wheat crop near **Kapunda** (Simon Honner, Honner Agribusiness). We recommend checking crops for signs of damage and the presence of larvae. Cutworms are mainly nocturnal feeders. More information: [PestFacts Issue 5, 2014](#) (pdf).

### Armyworms

Armyworm larvae (15-35 mm) were confirmed damaging a barley crop at **Laura**, and causing high levels of damage to 5 hectares of a barley crop at **Farrell Flat** in the Mid North (Darren Pech, Elders). On Eyre Peninsula, armyworms were collected from a wheat crop east of **Kimba** (Amy Murray, Agsave Merchandise). Armyworms can be a serious pest of cereal crops in late spring. However, Continued monitoring for armyworm should be considered as this pest could become a serious issue later in the season. More information: [Armyworm, SARDI](#) (pdf).

### More pasture tunnel moth

[Pasture tunnel moth](#) (*Philobota productella*) larvae were found in high numbers damaging a crop of barley over-sown with lucerne at **Booborowie** in the Mid North, warranting control (Craig Wissell, Team Wiss). Continue monitoring cereal crops for pasture tunnel moth during July and August. Look for lopped leaves, larvae in soil tunnels and evidence of the characteristic 'soil chimneys' on the soil surface. More information: [PestFacts Issue 6, 2014](#) (pdf) and [Pasture Tunnel Moth, GRDC](#).

### Native budworm and *Etiella* moth pheromone trapping invitation

SARDI Entomology, in collaboration with cesar, are scoping the interest and feasibility of initiating a coordinated pheromone trapping network for native budworm across South-eastern Australia.

**This spring, SARDI are seeking interest from agronomists or growers in South Australia who would like to operate a native budworm trap.** This would involve checking the trap approximately weekly and recording moth numbers. We will collate and publish the collective results regularly in PestFacts. We will provide traps, lures and assistance with insect identification.

Feedback suggests that in some districts, the sporadic nature of native budworm moth flights in recent seasons has made it difficult to determine optimal spray timing for budworm in pulse crops. Moth trapping provides an early warning of moth flights, potential egg lay and larval activity in pulse and canola crops, signalling the time to initiate crop monitoring. Moth trapping, in conjunction with knowledge of rates of native budworm development, can be used to help inform spray timing.

**Etiella trapping: SARDI are also looking for agronomists or growers in lentil growing districts who would like to run an *Etiella* moth pheromone trap this spring.** This would involve regularly checking the trap and reporting moth numbers to us. We will provide traps and lures. The [SARDI degree-day model](#) predicts the timing of peak *Etiella* moth flight activity based on local daily maximum and minimum temperatures. Feedback suggests that model is generally working well, however trapping data are important to help validate the model.

If you would like to be involved in native budworm and/or *Etiella* trapping this spring, please contact Bill Kimber on [bill.kimber@sa.gov.au](mailto:bill.kimber@sa.gov.au) or 8303 9536.

## Weevils

### ○ Vegetable weevil

We confirmed vegetable weevil (*Listroderes diffcilis*) larvae causing small patches of damage throughout a 30 hectare crop of bolting canola north-west of **Cummins** (Martyn Chandler, Cummins Ag). The paddock contained vetch hay last year. More information on vegetable weevil: [PestFacts Issue 6, 2014](#) (pdf).

### ○ Spine-tailed weevil or cereal curculio

Larvae of spine-tailed weevil (*Steriphus caudatus*), also known as cereal curculio, were confirmed damaging a barley crop at **Sandilands** in the SA Mallee. Crop areas 6-8 metres in diameter were thinned out, with plants lopped and chewed below ground level. The paddock had previously been in medic pasture. (Dom Meaney, YPAg). On Fleurieu Peninsula, larvae were found feeding within plant roots of a 3-4 leaf late-sown barley crop at **Mypolonga**, causing widespread damage to the crop (Steve Hein, Murraylands Ag Services). Check cereal crops previously in pasture. More information: [PestFacts Issue 6, 2014](#) (pdf).

### ○ Grey banded leaf weevil

Grey banded leaf weevil (*Ethemaia sellata*) larvae were collected from a paddock recently sown to oat hay (yet to emerge) at **Gawler River** in the Lower North. Larvae were found at 20 cm depth in the soil in numbers of approximately 10 per square metre. Last season, the paddock was sown to lucerne but contained abundant marshmallow weed, which is a preferred host (Geoff Schnaars, NTS Rural).

Grey banded leaf weevil feeds on marshmallow weeds, but has occasionally been known to damage canola and lupins. Although not recorded as damaging to cereals, if sowing canola

or lupins is a consideration for next year, controlling marshmallow weed is a key to managing this weevil. Before considering control options ensure correct identification of weevils.

Larvae are legless and grow to approximately 5-8 mm long, yellow to green in colour with a light green to brown head capsule, and are often confused with vegetable weevil larvae. Adult weevils are approximately 8 mm long, grey in colour with distinctive raised markings and a white area on their back over approximately a 1/4 of the wing covers.

- **Mandalotus weevil**

Mandalotus weevils (*Mandalotus* spp.) were confirmed in chickpeas at **Balaklava** (Michael Brougham, Elders). Control was not warranted. More information on Mandalotus weevil identification, biology and control: [PestFacts Issue 3, 2014](#) (pdf).

## Lucerne flea still about

Patches of **Lucerne flea** (*Sminthurus viridus*) have been observed in some crops in the Mid North and on Yorke Peninsula (Craig Wissell, Team Wiss) and high numbers of lucerne flea were confirmed from a paddock of canola near **Naracoorte** in the South East (Jason McClure, Elders). This is a timely reminder that crops and pastures grown in areas where lucerne flea has previously been a problem should be regularly monitored for damage from autumn through to spring. Susceptible crops (lucerne, clover, canola, pulses, and cereals, and pastures), particularly in paddocks with heavier clay loam soils or following clover pastures, should also be carefully monitored. More information: [PestFacts Issue 2, 2014](#) (pdf).

## Sawfly larvae in barley

Sawfly larvae (family: Pergidae) have been confirmed causing damage on crop edges of early tillering barley at **Kimba** warranting treatment. Alpha-cypermethrin was applied at 200ml/hectare (Amy Murray, Agsave). Sawflies are an occasional pest of lupins, wheat and barley crops. Historically, they have mainly occurred in crops on Eyre Peninsula, and also in the SA Mallee. High numbers of larvae can cause significant crop losses.

Larvae grow to 15 mm long, are greyish-green in colour with a shiny dark brown head capsule, and have a dark longitudinal central stripe on the back with an adjoining pale stripe either side. They are relatively hairless and leathery in appearance and can easily be confused with lepidopteran (moth and butterfly) larvae. They have a slightly flattened body with 3 pairs of well-developed thoracic legs and 7 pairs of fleshy-lobed prolegs. Very little is known about the biology of this pest.

## Slugs and snails

- **Slugs on Yorke Peninsula**

High numbers of dead black-keeled slug (*Milax gagates*) were found following a bait application targeting snails, at **Stansbury** on Yorke Peninsula (Craig Wissell, Team Wiss). The presence of slugs was not suspected until the dead slugs were found. More information on slug control: [PestFacts Issue 1, 2014](#) (pdf).

- **Increased snail activity**

Recent monitoring of snails using remote cameras on Yorke Peninsula has revealed increased snail activity that may indicate a need to bait. Those growers considering baiting are reminded of the 60 day withholding period prior to harvest. In early sown crops in

northern areas baiting needs be completed in the next couple of weeks. More information: [PestFacts Issue 1, 2014](#) (pdf).

## Resources

- ❖ **Insect diagnostics:** SARDI Entomology offers an insect diagnostic service for PestFacts subscribers. Please send at least two intact specimens in a non-crushable container along with host food, collection details, description of crop damage and contact details, to: NIPI diagnostics SARDI Entomology Unit GPO Box 397, Adelaide SA 5001.
  - ❖ **PestFacts map** is a new interactive service available on the SARDI website at [www.sardi.sa.gov.au/pestfacts-map](http://www.sardi.sa.gov.au/pestfacts-map). The map allows users to search and view all historical pest reports across South Australia and Western Victoria. Search by crop, pest or beneficial invertebrate, and time period of interest. The map will be updated with each issue to include new reports.
  - ❖ **'Best Bet' IPM strategies** for major pests of grains crops are available in easy-to-use tables, downloadable from the [IPM workshops website](#).
  - ❖ **IPM guidelines for grains:** The new national [IPM guidelines for grains website](#) provides a comprehensive collection of tools and strategies to manage pests in grain cropping systems across Australia.
- [Previous issues of PestFacts](#) • • [PestFacts map](#) • [Images of insects and damage](#) • [I SPY manual](#) • [Crop mites: back pocket guide](#) • [Crop weevils: back pocket guide](#) •

*PestFacts is a FREE service providing updates throughout the growing season on an "as-needed" basis of the latest information on invertebrate pests in broad acre crops in South Australia and western Victoria. It is supported by GRDC's National Invertebrate Pest Initiative (NIPI). All information is sent by email to subscribers. Please email a coordinator to be placed on the circulation list. Your support and feedback are essential to the success of PestFacts.*

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