

Season Update – Queensland (27 May 2020)

Consistent mirid presence in mungbeans but very little evidence of damage in later crops – is that typical?

Continual mirid pressure may have been at low numbers or damage may have occurred, but without a with/without spray comparison it's very difficult to tell because mirids do not cause chewing damage that is readily visible.

What is the impact of crown borer on mungbeans?

Crown borer does not damage mungbeans.

Pest pressure seemed to build quickly considering the drought – why?

Pest outbreaks often occur after severe droughts. A profusion of host plants allows pest populations to 'get the jump' on beneficials.

Do mirids cause tipping out in faba beans?

No evidence for tipping out damage. Mirids are more likely to cause damage at the podding growth stage.

Are seed dressings useful against aphids?

Only for a relatively short period after crop emergence.

What about limiting virus?

Aphids transmit virus when feeding, so while the seed treatment may kill the infected aphid, the aphid can have already transmitted the virus to the plant.

How much tolerance was detected in mungbean varieties?

Glasshouse trials only at this stage, but the varieties mentioned took longer to be infected and had a lot less root rot.

Did the anthracnose seen in the Burdekin this season come in on seed?

Seed is still being tested, but it's more likely to have been present at low levels for a number of seasons, but this season's conditions were particularly conducive to disease development.

Has fusarium been detected in Burdekin mungbeans?

Not aware of any reports from the Burdekin.

Observation of late sorghum around Moree showed very high numbers of *Helicoverpa punctifera* moths during sorghum head emergence (mid to late march) but very few larvae were detected in the sorghum heads.

1. Is sorghum a suitable crop for *punctifera* infestation?
2. What is the preferred host crop/plant for *punctifera*?

Heliothis punctifera (formerly *Neocleptia punctifera*)
Lesser budworm

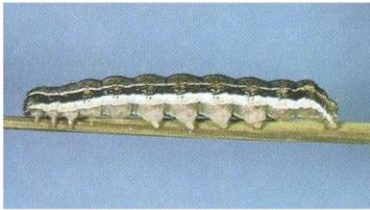


Photo: courtesy of Marcus Matthews,
[Heliothine Moths of Australia: A Guide to Pest Bollworms and Related Noctuid Groups](#)



(Photo: courtesy of Graeme Cocks, Townsville, Queensland)



(Photo: copyright of Brett and Marie Smith, at Ellura Sanctuary, South Australia)

Source: <http://lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au/heli/punctifera.html>

IFB Common. Moths of Australia.

Endemic species. Common especially in lower rainfall areas.

Hosts:

Chenopodiaceae, Asteraceae, Malvaceae, Solanaceae, Fabaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Zygophyllaceae.

Crops:

Cotton, lucerne, wheat, maize.

Pulses, medics, canola, cereal (cesar)

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

There's a rumour regarding large numbers of FAW reported in WA – have you heard about this?

At this stage, these reports have not been confirmed, and any high densities are more likely to be armyworm species already present in Australia.

Is FAW likely to be resistant or susceptible to Bt?

CSIRO are currently doing research in this area; overseas there is resistance to many Bt products, although Cry 1F may still be useful. Is it quite likely that Australia's FAW populations will already have resistance to some groups of products, and resistance testing results will be important when planning management strategies.

Will we see FAW on the Downs next season?

It's possible, particularly in later sorghum crops, and more likely if populations build up in the north. At this stage the timing of any migrations is uncertain.