

# MACADAMIA NUT BORER

**Background** Macadamia nut borer is an important pest of macadamia in South Africa with larval infestations present in all main growing regions. The species has a limited geographic distribution, reported only in South Africa and Malawi, and feeds almost exclusively on macadamia. Yield loss resulting from this pest has not been determined.

## Scientific name

*Thaumatotibia  
batrachopa*

## Family

Tortricidae

## Insect type

Fruit borer

**Biology** Female moths lay eggs on the surface of macadamia pericarps. Upon hatching, larvae bore into the pericarp and cause extensive tunneling damage. In some cases, depending on nut development, larvae may tunnel to the centre of the nut and feed on the kernel. Pupation generally occurs within the soil, although there are reports of larvae pupating within nuts. After emergence, adults seek shelter within the orchard. Adults become active during the dusk period, where they search for mates and fulfil the role of producing offspring.

**Description** The eggs are approx. 1 mm long, oval in shape and range from yellow to translucent white in colour. Larvae are approx. 15 mm long when fully grown. Fully grown larvae have a brown head and a creamy-white body with rows of brown spots running down the length. The pupae are brown and approx. 7 mm in length. They have 10 abdominal segments with transverse row spines. The adults are brown-grey with a body length of approx. 8 mm and a wingspan of approx. 18 mm.



# MACADAMIA NUT BORER

## Symptoms

- Entrance holes in pericarp
- Tunneling damage and frass inside pericarp and/or fruit
- Premature nut drop



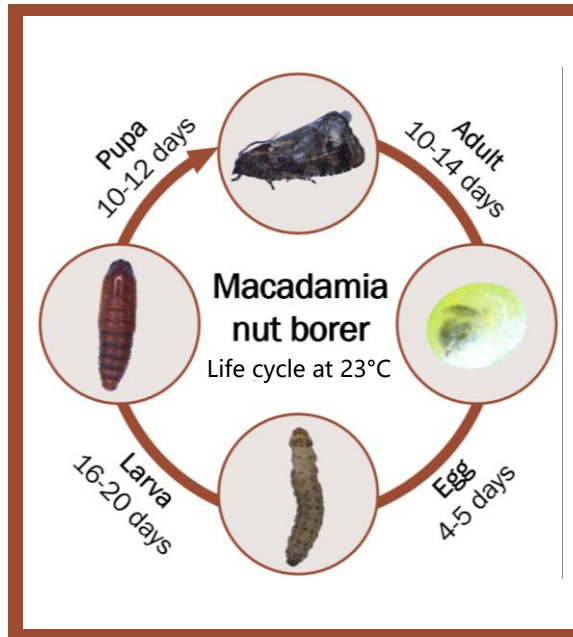
Products registered for control in South Africa

## Chemical

- Allice 20
- Delegate 250
- Emma
- Orthene 75
- Vitex 50
- Wonderland 200

## Pheromone

- Last Call M.N.B.
- M.N.B. PheroLure
- X-Mate™ M.N.B.



## References

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Photos by: Ashleigh Smith

Macadamia  
Protection  
Programme

