

Pest Profile



Photo credit: [Jason Molenda](#)

Common Name: Artichoke Plume Moth

Scientific Name: *Platyptilia carduidactylus*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera: Pterophoridae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.5mm	Shiny, light greenish-yellow turning orange-yellow with age, deposited on the underside of leaves and occasionally the bud stalk.
Larva/Nymph	Up to 15mm	Pale yellow, turning white or off white at last instar (larval stage).
Adult	18-27mm wingspan	Color varies in intensity, buff to dark brown. Forewings and hind wings are divided into lobes which give the appearance of several pairs of wings. The hind wings also have a fringed appearance.
Pupa (if applicable)		Case is a golden brown color surrounded by dark mass.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): The artichoke plume moth larvae are chewing feeders and are the main concern.

Host plant/s: The main host plants are in the genus *Cynara*, which includes the common artichoke, but these insects also feed on burdock and many species of thistle.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Larvae will consume any part of the artichoke plant, but the most economic damage is done when they feed on the floral buds and prevent them from being sellable. Feeding on the shoots of the plants is usually reversible but on some occasions, permanent damage has been observed. Larvae have also been observed in the crowns of the plant and the infested crowns can play a role in the establishment of the pest in new fields.

References:

Species *Platyptilia carduidactylus* - Artichoke Plume Moth - Hodges#6109. (n.d.). Retrieved March 1, 2016, from <http://bugguide.net/node/view/71503>

University of California. (2015, May). How to Manage Pests. Retrieved March 1, 2016, from <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r6300111.html>