

Peach twig borer

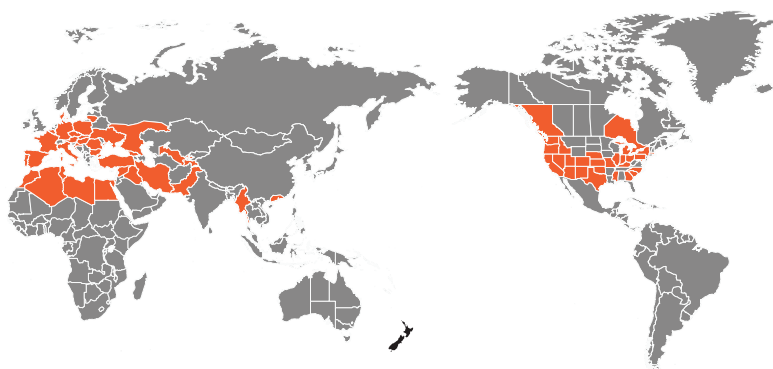
Anarsia lineatella

What is it? The peach twig borer is a small moth commonly found in Europe and is a major pest of peach, nectarine, cherry, apricot and plum. Damage caused by the larva and general behaviour are similar to that of the Oriental fruit moth (*Grapholita molesta*).

Distribution. It is present in Europe, Middle East, North Africa, parts of South Asia and North America.

Morphology. The eggs are yellowish-white to orange and oval. Larvae have a dark brown head with distinctive alternating dark and light brown bands around the abdomen. The larva has 4 or 5 stages. A mature larva may grow to 12mm long. The pupa is smooth, brown and does not hide in a cocoon. Pupae are usually found beneath bark scales or cracks in the bark. The adult moth is 8-12mm long. It is steel grey with white and dark scales.

For current distribution go to <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANARLI/distribution>



Biology. Peach twig borer overwinters as a young larva in sheltered places. When the first leaves appear, the larvae emerge and start to feed on flowers, penetrating deep inside the calyx. They then feed on young leaves and small fruit. During spring they pupate between the damaged leaves and shoots. When the first adults emerge, and after mating, the females lay their eggs singly or in small clusters on the leaves, shoots and fruit. Larvae penetrate the fruit and feed on them causing heavy damage. Adults of the second generation emerge from the beginning of summer, while those of third generation emerge during autumn, laying their eggs on 1 to 2-year-old branches where the young larvae will overwinter in shelters they have built.

Dispersal. Peach twig borer can disperse locally by flight. Long distance dispersal is likely to occur in infested fruit, host plant nursery stock or packing material.

Symptoms. The first sign that the peach twig borer is in the orchard may be wilting or flagging new growth in the spring. As buds open and new leaves begin to grow, the overwintering larvae burrow down the tender shoots, which then wilt and die. Twig or shoot damage may be more severe on young trees. One overwintered larva may attack more than one shoot. In high numbers they can cause extensive damage to young trees or nursery stock. Larvae of the succeeding generations feed on shoots or fruit. They attack fruit at the stem end, where two fruit touch or where leaves touch the fruit. They also may feed along the sides of the fruit, scarring it.

Preventative measures:

- Become familiar with peach twig borer in all its different life stages.
- Damage to shoots by peach twig borer larvae looks the same as those caused by Oriental fruit moth.
- Examine shoots during spring to determine if any of these pests are present in the orchard. Wilted shoots should be opened to determine if peach twig borer larvae are inside.
- Examine shoots again in mid-December to look for larvae of the first summer generation.
- Adult peach twig borers can be monitored with pheromone traps, which should be placed in orchards at the beginning of springtime to detect emerging moths.
- If you believe you have found peach twig borer in your orchard, call MPI's pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66 or contact Summerfruit NZ.

Source: CABI

Photo – H. Audemard, INRA, Montfavet, Bugwood.org



23mm



12mm



12mm

Familiarise yourself with the common pests and diseases in your orchard so you can distinguish them from the attack of exotic organisms.

Photo – Eugene E. Nelson, Bugwood.org



Photo – G. Morvan, INRA, Montfavet, Bugwood.org



Photo – Donald Hobern, GBIF



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To report any suspected exotic organism, call MPI on:

0800 80 99 66