

# Eyespotted Bud Moth (*Spilonota ocellana*)

August, 2020

## Hosts

Fruit trees, especially apple and cherry.

## Damage

**Buds** - Webbed bud clusters including one or more dead leaves.

**Fruit** - Shallow irregular skin tunnels and tiny holes under dead leaf tied to apple. Larvae will also feed on bagged apples. Damage can be confused with that of summer generation obliquebanded and threelined leafrollers but is generally less extensive.

## Identification

**Larva** - Pale to dark chocolate brown with shiny black head; wriggle backwards and hang from silk threads like leafrollers when disturbed.

**Adult** - Gray moths about 9 mm long with a wide white band across each forewing

## Life History

Young larvae overwinter in silken cocoons in the crotches of twigs and branches. They emerge near the green tip stage and construct nests of leaves and blossoms, feeding mainly on leaves. Larvae pupate in the nests and moths emerge in mid-June to late July. After mating, females lay eggs singly on leaves. Summer larvae tie dead leaves to fruit and feed on the fruit surface. In September larvae seek overwintering sites on the trees. There is one generation per year.



*Eyespotted bud moth damage on apple. Photo courtesy Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada.*



*Eyespotted bud moth damage on pear*

## Monitoring

In spring look for feeding damage to leaves and bud clusters. In late July and August examine fruit for surface feeding, usually in areas of red fruit where larvae attach a leaf or where two adjacent fruit were touching. A pheromone-baited trap is commercially available to monitor adults; however no relationship between moth captures and subsequent larval abundance has been established.



*Eyespotted bud moth larva*

## Control

**It is important to control the spring generation of bud moth larvae in order to reduce the need to control the summer generation that causes the economic damage.**

**Chemical** - Apply a biological insecticide Dipel, Foray or Bioprotec during bloom (and 10 days later if needed). Confirm and Intrepid applied for control of obliquebanded and threelined leafrollers in the spring or summer will aid in suppression of any bud moth and codling moth larvae present. Success/Entrust, Delegate, Altacor, Exirel can also be used for control of bud moth larvae at pink to petal fall and in the summer. Success/Entrust can harm earwigs and parasitic wasps exposed to direct sprays; however, there is no threat once the residues dry. Lack of insecticide applications in the spring or for second generation codling moth may require one or more sprays in July and August. This is especially true for stone fruits.



*Eyespotted bud moth adult*