

# Rice Caseworm

## Recognize the problem

The larva cut off leaf tips to make leaf cases. It feeds by scraping the leaf tissue, leaving the papery upper epidermis, giving a ladder-like appearance of skeletonized leaf tissues. Severely attacked fields have a whitish appearance because of damaged plant tips, especially in nurseries. Damage includes; leaf cases floating on water, leaves cut at right angles as with a pair of scissors, leaves with papery upper epidermis that were fed-on, skeletonized leaf tissues usually appear ladder-like, the leaf blades are eaten away completely leaving the mid rib only. They also construct tubular cases inside leaves and remain inside these leaf rolls and feeds upon the foliage.

## Background

The eggs are pale yellow, disc-like shape, laid in single or in cluster on the undersurface of the leaves. The larva is light green in colour with a light brownish-orange head. The pupa is cream and becomes silvery white when it matures. The adult is small white moth with pale brown markings. A life cycle takes about 35 – 40 days.

## Management

- Destroy eggs during transplanting from nursery to field.
- Irrigate the nursery at level of leaf collar, and use a mosquito net to catch the worms floating on the cuttings.
- Drain water and use filter to catch worm. Re-irrigate after 2–3 days.
- Apply ash to the place where insects infest.
- Spray neem leave extract to the place where insects infest.
- Release ducks to the field.
- Rotation of crop.
- Destruction of weeds around the paddy fields (weeds acts as alternate host of this pest).
- Preserve beneficial insects.
- In case the measures mentioned above fails, use less harmful insecticide and follow recommendations of a technical expert, use insecticides such as Fipronil.

Mature larva inside the leaf casing. (Photo by www.irri.org)



Caseworm adult moth. (Photo by www.irri.org)



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > *Nymphula depunctalis*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Cambodia



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