



CAES

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BOX TREE MOTH (*Cydalima perspectalis*)



Szabolcs Sáfán, University of West Hungary, Bugwood.org

The box tree moth (BTM) is native to East Asia and has thoroughly colonized Europe as a serious invasive insect. Ontario, Canada had a detection of the BTM in 2018, but more recently in 2021, the BTM was detected in the United States from an infested shipment of boxwoods to various retail facilities across the country including Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. As of March 2022, a federal order was issued to prohibit the interstate movement of *Buxus* sp. from Erie, Niagara, and Orleans counties in New York due to a detection of a breeding population. The BTM is a major concern for boxwood (*Buxus* spp.) in the

nursery industry, which is a critical commodity for Connecticut.

The larvae of the BTM feed on the leaves of boxwood, primarily the lower portions of the host plant. Feeding symptoms include green-black frass and webbing on the leaves and branches. High infestation rates can lead to defoliation, where after larvae proceed to consume the bark which inevitably causes plant death.

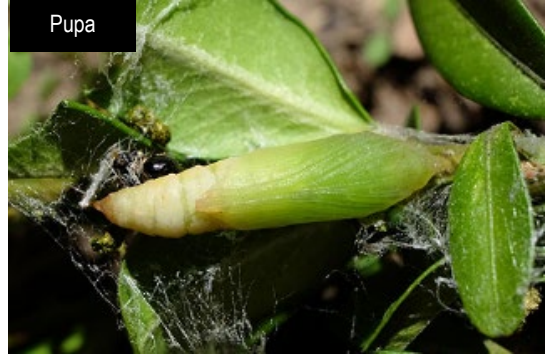
Adults have white wings with a thick brown border, brown head and abdomen with an average forewing span of 14-18 mm. A brown morph has been found which is almost entirely brown with white specks on the forewings.

Females lay egg clusters in a gelatinous covering on boxwood leaves where larvae, which are yellow-lime green with dark stripes proceed to hatch in 4-6 days and can complete 1-5 generations per year between May to September. Dormant larvae are found in a cocoon protected by webbing on leaves from September to May when adults emerge beginning in June.

The primary trapping method is a pheromone lure bucket trap along with visual inspections for the presence of BTM and any damage to host plants.



(Courtesy of Walter Schön, www.schmetterling-raupe.de/art/perspectalis.htm)



(Courtesy of Ilya Mityushev, Department of Plant protection of the Russian State Agrarian University - Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy.)

