

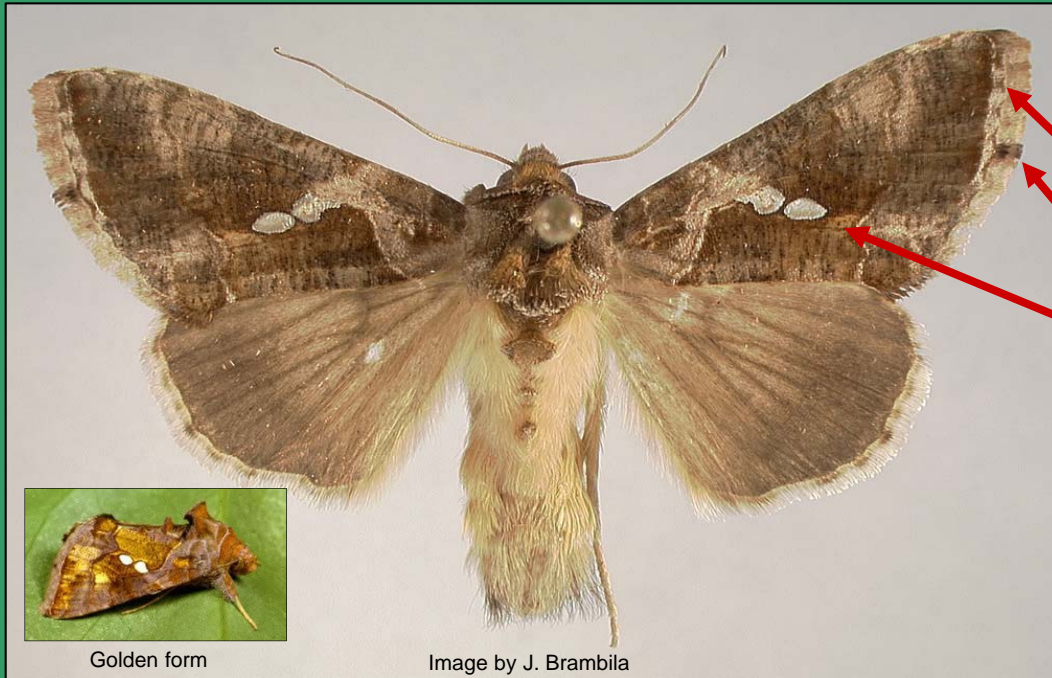


Chrysodeixis chalcites

Golden Twin Spot Moth



Diagnostic Aid version 2



Golden form

Image by J. Brambila

Wingspan: 40 mm (~1½ inch)

Forewing:

- ground color golden-orange to bronze-brown, slightly speckled with gray brown (one form very golden)
- terminal line pale brown on anterior half
- with a small black spot near margin of wing on vein M2 (sometimes rubbed off), on the fringe
- and with a silver or white stigma usually consisting of two similar oval spots (hence its common name)
- ~17mm in length

Hind wing:

- ground color brown-gray, darker toward margin, with dark gray veins and a pale-tan short fringe

Abdomen:

- Males with black scales at apex ventrally

***Chrysodeixis chalcites* (Esper) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae: Plusiinae) has a limited distribution in Canada. It is externally identical to *Chrysodeixis eriosoma* (Doubleday), which has not been found in the Continental U.S. Because *C. chalcites* is very similar to several North American Plusiinae, especially *Chrysodeixis includens* (Walker), the soybean looper, dissection of genitalia and DNA-barcoding is necessary for final species determination.**

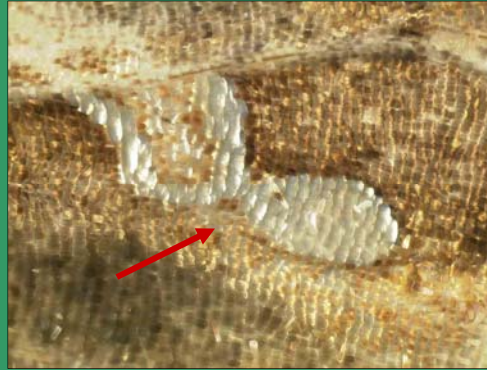
This screening aid was produced by Julieta Brambila (USDA/APHIS/PPQ) and Steve Passoa (USDA/APHIS/PPQ). Wing characters for *C. chalcites* were obtained from Pacific Northwest Moths at <http://pnwmoths.biol.wvu.edu>. Genitalic characters are based on the work by S. Passoa (1995). The spread moth specimen of *C. chalcites* was provided by Marja van der Straten from Plant Protection Service, Netherlands. The resting pose image of the golden form of *C. chalcites* was used with permission from Buggwood.org, taken by Paolo Mazzei from Italy.

Chrysodeixis includens

Soybean Looper Moth



Image by Jim Vargo



A plusiine moth that is a common pest, especially in the eastern U.S., is *Chrysodeixis includens* (Walker), the soybean looper. The silver marking (stigma, see red arrow) in the forewing is variable, sometimes divided into two markings, a loop and a disc. It is extremely similar to *C. chalcites*. Dissection of genitalia is required to distinguish these two species.



Images by J. Brambila

Trichoplusia ni

Cabbage Looper Moth



Image by Lyle Buss,
University of Florida



Another of the plusiine pest moths that is commonly collected in surveys anywhere in the U.S. is *Trichoplusia ni* (Hübner), the cabbage looper. Because the wing coloration and the shape of the stigma are variable (see red arrow), it is essential that genitalia are examined for its identification. However, the forewings of *Trichoplusia ni* do not have the metallic sheen characteristic of both species of *Chrysodeixis* mentioned here, *C. chalcites* and *C. includens*.



Images by J. Brambila