

Helicoverpa armigera

Old World Bollworm



SCREENING AID



Life size



30 to 42 mm wingspan (~1 ¼ to 1 ½ inches)

Forewing:

- light yellowish brown, light yellow, light brown, or greenish brown
- with a black or dark brown kidney-shaped marking off-center
- with a row of black spots along outer margin

Hindwing:

- creamy white
- with dark brown veins
- with a broad dark brown or dark gray band along the apical margin interrupted by a pale patch

Helicoverpa armigera (Hübner) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) is nearly identical to *Helicoverpa zea*, the corn earworm, which is strongly attracted to the *H. armigera* pheromone. The wing color of these two *Helicoverpa* species is quite variable. Therefore, dissection of the genitalia is required for species identification.

This screening aid was prepared by Julieta Brambila (USDA/APHIS/PPQ) for CAPS (Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey program) and reviewed by Adam Silagyi (was USDA/APHIS/PPQ, now USAID). The illustrated specimen was provided by Marja van der Straten (Plant Protection Service, Netherlands).