

# *Pectinophora gossypiella*

## Pink Boll Worm

### SCREENING AID



Resting pose



Life size

Wingspan 12.7 to 20 mm

#### Forewing:

- 7.0-8.5 mm in length
- narrow, with apex pointed and fringed
- mottled brown or grayish-brown with poorly defined black spots

#### Hindwing:

- with distal margin concave below the pointed apex
- grayish-brown
- with margins fringed, the fringe lighter in color than the wing

*Pectinophora gossypiella* (Saunders) (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae) is similar in size and appearance to numerous other moths, some of which are attracted to the *P. gossypiella* pheromone. Therefore, dissections of the genitalia are required for identification. This screening aid was produced by Julieta Brambila (USDA/APHIS/PPQ) with assistance from Ronald W. Hodges (USDA/ARS/SEL) and Michelle Walters (USDA/APHIS/PPQ) for CAPS (Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey program). It is based in a large part on a 2006 presentation by Ernie Miller (USDA/APHIS/PPQ). Richard Brown (retired, Mississippi Entomological Museum) provided the pinned specimen. The photograph of the moth in its natural position was taken by Jack K. Clark (University of California, Davis).