

PEST: Mexican Rice Borer (*Eoreuma loftini*)

BASIC PROFILE: Adult MRB moths lay eggs on sugarcane, rice and other grasses. The larvae bore into the stem and damage the plant. Adults are creamy white to straw colored, ~12 – 20 mm long (3/8”– 3/4”) tip to tip. They have a distinctive small dark dot in the middle of each forewing. MRB can move in cane stalks or via natural flight.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF conducts annual surveys for this pest using a pheromone lure. Traps are deployed most of the year in sugarcane and rice fields and at cane mills when in operation. MRB is moving our way from East Texas at a rate of ~15 miles/year. To date, only two moths have been found in western Louisiana. No sugarcane shipments from Texas are allowed. This helps to prevent man-assisted movement into the state.

