

CASTOR

1. Shoot and capsule borer, *Conogethes* (= *Dichocrocis*) *punctiferalis*, Pyraustidae, Lepidoptera

Symptom of damage: Capsules with bore holes, damaged capsules webbed together, peduncle and capsules show galleries made of silk and frass.

Nature of damage: In early stage, larvae are present at junction of the petiole feed on petiole and young leaves. They also bore into capsule and peduncle.

Egg: Eggs are laid on tender parts of plants.

Larva: Pale greenish with pinkish tinge, black blotches and fine hairs with dark head and prothoracic shield.

Pupa: Pupation takes place in cocoons of silk, inside the stem or capsule.

Adult: Yellowish with black spots on both pair of wings.

2. Castor semilooper, *Achaea janata*, Noctuidae, Lepidoptera

Symptom of damage: Defoliation.

Nature of damage: First instar larva nibbles on the leaves while the second instar makes holes and late instars eating the leaves completely. Caterpillars destroy leaves, bark and capsules. Moths suck citrus fruit, so called fruit sucking moth, doing great damage to citrus.

Egg: Eggs laid in batches of six on both surfaces of the leaves.

Larva: Slender and of varied colour with longitudinal stripes of red and white on the body. Body colour changes to velvety black. It has a pair of reddish anal processes. Caterpillar walks with a semi looping motion.

Pupa: Pupates in loosely threaded silken cocoon, on the ground amongst wrapped up leaves.

Adult: Adult moths are stout bodied and of a fairly large size. Forewings are pale-reddish brown. Hindwings possess a medially white patch and three large white patches on the outer margin on a black background.

3. Semilooper, *Parallelia algira*, Noctuidae, Lepidoptera

Symptom of damage: Defoliation.

Nature of damage: Larva feeding on castor leaves.

Egg: Eggs are laid singly on leaves.

Larva: Olive green with numerous longitudinal lines.

Pupa: Pupation in soil or in leaf folds.

Adult: Forewing with white band, hindwing with a white median band and grey outer margin.

4. Castor slug caterpillar, *Latoia* (= *Parasa*) *lepida*, Cochliidiidae, Lepidoptera

Symptom of damage: Defoliation.