



HORTICULTURAL PESTS OF REGULATORY CONCERN

Bayberry leaftier moth

Name: *Strepsicrates smithiana* Walsingham, 1892.
Location: Southern New Jersey
On: *Myrica* sp.
Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Tortricidae

The bayberry leaftier, known also as Smith’s *Strepsicrates* moth belongs to the subfamily Olethreutinae in one of the largest families of moths, Tortricidae. Olethreutinae are general plant feeders and can often be identified by their behavior of rolling or tying foliage into masses while they feed on interior leaves and stems.

Already an occasional pest in southern U.S. states and South America, bayberry leaftier has now become troublesome for several southern New Jersey nurseries. The larvae are small caterpillars, 11 to 12mm long. They have a pale yellowish head and variable body colors that often appear to have dark stripes above and to the sides.¹ Bayberry leaftier larvae are responsible for defoliating and disfiguring the stem-tips of *Myrica* sp. The adults are small moths with 14-15mm wingspans. Their forewing is mottled brown-gray with a distinct light gray pattern above. The adult hindwing is solid light brown. Damage caused by bayberry leaftier is most noticeable in

of leaves near the tips of young shoots followed by silken-masses of leaves and frass.



Figure 2. *S. smithiana* larvae

To confirm the presence of bayberry leaftier, these masses could be opened to uncover the developing larvae inside. Infested shoots can be pruned and buried or destroyed before the adults have emerged.



Figure 1. Larval feeding damage to bayberry foliage and stems

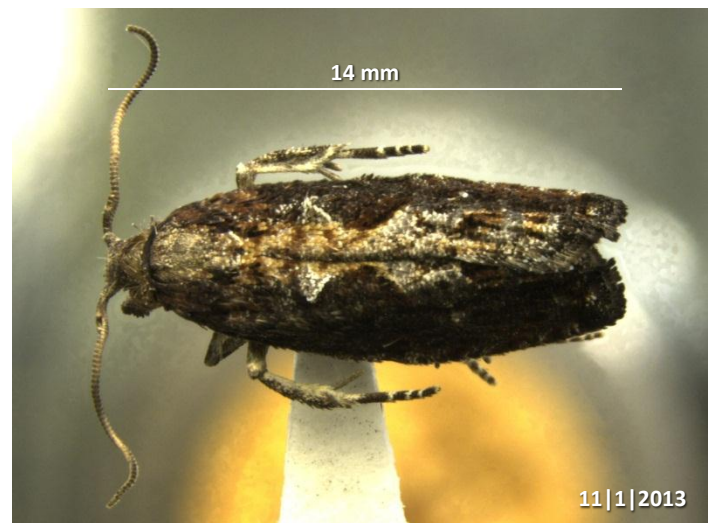


Figure . *S. smithiana* adult

late summer. Scouting should begin by July and continue until fall. The first evidence of activity is the skeletonizing

¹ M. Mackay, The Canadian Entomologist Supp. 10 Vol.91: *Larvae of the North American Olethreutidae (Lepidoptera)*. Insect Systematics and Biological Control Unit Entomology Division, Ottawa, Canada,1959