Florida Rice Growers Training
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Belle Glade, FL

Have You Seen This Rice Borer?

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Stem borers are rice insect pests

• Insects in order Lepidoptera
  - Noctuidae
  - Pyralidae
  - Crambidae

• Adults are moths

• Immatures (larvae) are caterpillars
  - Damaging stage
Stem borer injury to rice
Stem borer injury to rice
Stem borer injury to rice

Photo: B. Castro, LSU AgCenter
Stem borers infesting rice in the Gulf Coast Region

- Sugarcane borer (SCB)
  - *Diatraea saccharalis*

- Rice stalk borer (RSB)
  - *Chilo plejadellus*

- Mexican rice borer (MRB)
  - *Eoreuma loftini*
Sugarcane borer (SCB)

Photo: J. Saichuk, LSU AgCenter
Rice stalk borer (RSB)
Mexican rice borer (MRB)
Stem borer adults

SCB  RSB  MRB

Photos: J. Saichuk, A. Mészáros, F.P.F. Reay-Jones, LSU AgCenter
Threat to Florida rice

• **The pest status of SCB and RSB needs to be determined**
  - **SCB**: Sporadic but sometimes serious pest of rice in Texas and Louisiana. Occurs in the EAA.
  - **RSB**: Sporadic pest of rice in Texas and Louisiana. Occurs in Florida.

• **Population levels in rice of the EAA are unknown**
Threat to Florida rice

- MRB
  - Serious rice pest in Texas and Louisiana
  - Invasive species new to Florida

- MRB not present in the EAA…
  … but monitoring efforts are needed
MRB population monitoring

Photo: Anna Mészáros
Are we helping MRB move further south?

- No
  - Only males attracted
  - Do not lay eggs
  - Do not participate in moving larval infestations further south

Photo: Anna Mészáros
Do You Have MRB in Your Trap?
MRB has a pointy forehead
This is not MRB!
Do You Have MRB in Your Field?

#1

#2

#3
Do You Have MRB in Your Field?

SCB

MRB

RSB
MRB larva

Photo: J. Saichuk, LSU AgCenter
Stem borer management

- **Varietal resistance**
  - Inbred vs. hybrid varieties (e.g., XL723, XP753)?

- **Cultural practices**
  - Soil fertility management?
  - Planting date?
  - Main crop harvest cutting height?
  - Rapid stubble destruction?
  - Non-crop host management?

- **Insecticides**
  - Dermacor X-100 seed treatments?
  - Foliar applications of pyrethroids?
Have you seen this rice borer?