

New Agricultural Pest for Southern California

Bougainvillea Looper (*Disclisioprocta stellata*)

Other common name: Somber Carpet Moth

Distribution: Neotropical species introduced to many parts of the world. In the Western hemisphere: from Canada to Brazil. Found also in Africa and islands of the Indian Ocean. In the U.S.: southeastern states, HI and CA.

Hosts: Recorded on *Bougainvillea*, *Amaranthus*, *Boerhaavia*, *Mirabilis japala*, *Pisonia aculeata*.

Damage: Larvae feed on foliage, producing deep notching cuts or consuming the entire leaf except the larger veins. During heavy infestations larvae may defoliate and kill younger plants.

Field ID: Adults with 25-33 mm wingspan. Wings mainly dark brown with black and tan wavy bands. Nocturnal moths.

Larvae (full grown) about 25-30 mm long. Locomotion with a characteristic looping gait. Young larvae are greenish with some rusty brown; later instars are more rusty brown.

Pupae around 11-13 mm long, mostly dark brown. Terminal segment armed with a pair of hooks.



Larva

Photo by G. Arakelian



Feeding damage on Bougainvillea