Rice caseworm (Nymphula depunctalis Guenee)

### Biology
- Adult moths get attracted to standing water and light and lay eggs on young seedlings.
- Transplanting infected young seedlings favors development of the insect.
- Adults are nocturnal and are attracted by light therefore paddy fields near lighted towns are prone to infestations.
- Multiply in delayed crop under stagnant water.
- Caterpillars hang on leaf edges in a tubular case.
- Severe infestation occur on dwarf, compact, high yielding varieties during rainy season.

### Geographical Distribution
- In Kenya it can be found in (Ahero, Bunyala, Kirinyanga, Kisumu, Kilifi, and Kwale counties), Tanzania (Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mbeya, Moshi) and Uganda.(lake Kioga, Buguri, butalenja and lira districts)

### Damage on rice crop
- Feeds on rice at seedling and tillering stages resulting in stunting of the plant.
- Feeding of the worm cuts leaves at right angles similar to those cut by a pair of scissors.
- Cut leaves are seen floating in water
- Skeletonized leaf tissues that appear ladderlike and leaves become serrated.
- Attack of 25% of scraped leaves in the first month after transplanting result in 10% yield loss

### Management Strategies
1. **Cultural Control methods**
   - Monitor regularly the crop to detect ladder cases in field margins and standing water
   - Practice early and synchronized planting.
   - Sprinkle kerosene and drag a rope on the surface of water to remove floating larva cases
   - Practice proper water management. Ensure good drainage for three days, since larvae cannot survive without water.
   - Level the field as accurately as possible and start the crop in 7-10 cm of water. Increase the water depth slowly after the leaves begin to grow upright
2. **Biological control**
   - Release egg parasitoid Trichogramma spp at a rate of 50,000 to 100,000 eggs per acre
3. **Chemical control**
   - Spray when there is infection by using Alpha-Cypermethrin 100g/L (e.g. Bestox at 10ml/20L of water)

### Contact experts:
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