Helicoverpa armigera is nearly identical to Helicoverpa zea (the corn earworm), which is strongly attracted to the H. armigera pheromone. The wing color of these two Helicoverpa species is quite variable. Therefore, dissections of the genitalia are required for authoritative identifications.

This screening aid was produced by J. Brambila (USDA/APHIS/PPQ) for CAPS (Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey program) and was reviewed by Adam Silagyi (PSS, USDA/APHIS/PPQ). The illustrated specimen was provided by Marja van der Straten (Plant Protection Service, Netherlands).

January 2009
**Helicoverpa armigera**

Old World bollworm

**DIAGNOSTIC AID**

**Forewing:**
- light yellowish-brown, light yellow, light brown, or yellowish-green
- with a row of 7 or 8 black spots along outer margin
- reniform spot dark brown, kidney shaped, and surrounded by a squarish brown ring
- orbicular spot dark brown, very small, and surrounded by a round brown ring

**Hindwing:**
- creamy white
- with dark brown veins
- with a broad dark brown or dark gray band along the apical margin interrupted by a pale patch

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