

Pest Profile



Photo credit: (Left) Charles T. and John R. Bryson, Bugwood.org; (Right) Herbert A. 'Joe' Pase III, Texas A&M Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Larger Canna Leafroller (Brazilian Skipper)

Scientific Name: *Calpododes ethlius*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera, HesperIIDae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.68 mm	The eggs of the larger canna leafroller are pale green in color when first deposited and then turn a distinct pink color within a day. They are globular and are deposited singly in widely spaced groups on the upper and lower surfaces of canna leaves.
Larva/Nymph	4- 50 mm	The larva goes through five different instars or stages between successive molts with the first instar occurring between hatching and the first molt. The first instar is yellowish in color, with a large head that is black and glossy. The young caterpillar’s upper plate on the thorax (thoracic shield), legs, and anal tip are also black. The second through fourth instar larvae have a dark brown or almost black head with dark green body. The body during the second through fourth instar is also semi-transparent, making the organs and tracheal system visible through the skin. This gives the larvae a dark green appearance due to the leaf material being visible in the gut. A white stripe runs the length of the entire body on each side. The fifth and final instar has an orange head with a dark triangle on the frontal region. The body of the fifth instar looks similar the that of the second through fourth instars. Before pupation, the mature larva shortens in length and is blueish green in body color.
Adult	Wingspan Female: 22-27 Male: 23-24	The adults are a brownish color. The forewings of the larger canna leafroller are a rich dark brown excluding five transparent spots. The posterior edge of the forewings has a fringe of dirty golden-yellow hairs. The hindwings are a darker brown than the forewings and have three transparent spots that are almost aligned in a straight line. The top of the abdomen is a dark brown

		and the underside is a pale yellow-whitish color. The thorax is an olive color on top and is a yellowish gray on the underside.
Pupa (if applicable)		The chrysalis is bright green in color and has a pronounced black spine on the front end. The long proboscis of the adult extends beyond the tip of the abdomen. The chrysalis is enclosed within a leaf rolled by the pupating larvae, which contains a thin silken mat that covers the “floor” of its shelter.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): The larvae have chewing mouthparts, and the adults have a proboscis that is used for siphoning.

Host/s: The primary host of the larvae are plants in the Cannaceae family (Cannas), but larvae have been found on West Indian arrowroot. The adults feed on nectar of flowering plants.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): The leaf rolling by the caterpillars reduces the aesthetic appeal of ornamental cannas, and the avid leaf feeding by larger larvae can be severe enough that the plants do not flower. In food crops like arrowroot, severe defoliation of plants can reduce the amount of harvestable underground stem (rhizome).

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