Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program

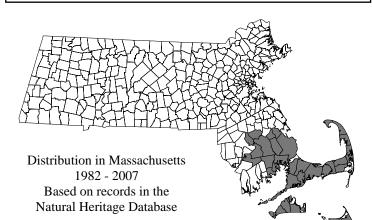
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Description: The Water-willow Stem Borer is a noctuid moth with forewings that are ochre to straw yellow with purplish-brown shading in the basal and terminal areas; the reniform and orbicular spots are straw yellow, outlined in purplish-brown. The hind wings are pinkish-tan. Wingspan is 32-38 mm.

Habitat: The Water-willow Stem Borer inhabits shallow portions of coastal plain wetlands (swamps, edges of streams and ponds, abandoned cranberry bogs, etc.) where water-willow (*Decodon verticillatus*) grows.

Life History: Adult moths fly in late September and early October. Eggs overwinter, hatching in the spring. Larvae bore into and feed internally on stems of water-willow (*Decodon verticillatus*). Larvae pupate in August.

Range: The Water-willow Stem Borer is endemic to southeastern Massachusetts, occurring in Plymouth and Bristol Counties as well as on Cape Cod and the offshore islands.



Water-willow Stem Borer

Papaipema sulphurata

State Status: **Threatened** Federal Status: None



Photo by M.W. Nelson

Adult Flight Period in Massachusetts

Jan	F	Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	

Threats

- Habitat loss
 - Hydrologic alteration
 - Invasion by exotic plants
 - Insecticide spraying
- Light pollution