# Vagabond Crambus

*Agriphila vulgivagellus*

# Sod Webworms –

Caterpillars that feed on grasses, usually within a silken structure

**Typical sod webworm larvae**

**Most sod webworm larvae live within a burrow (often lined with silk) in the thatch**

The larvae feed on grass blades, which they clip.  Feeding occurs at night.

# Life Stages of a Sod Webworm

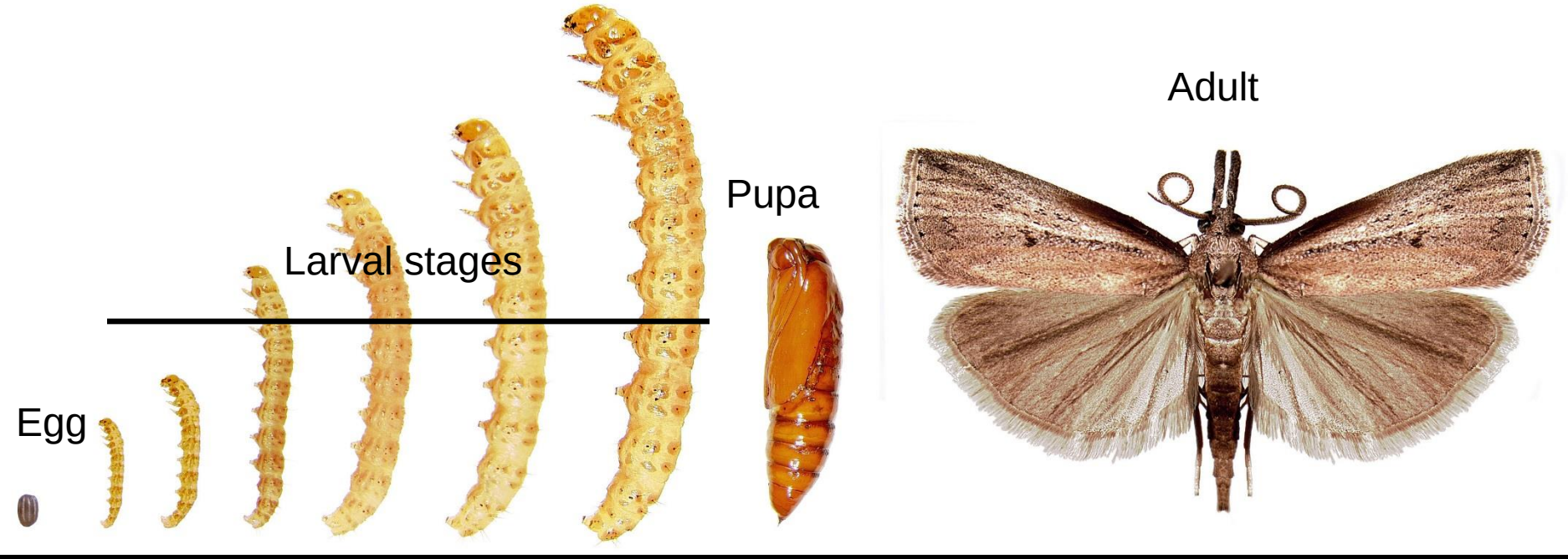


Image courtesy of David Shetlar, Ohio State University

# Sod Webworm Adults

# Key Aspects of Sod Webworm Biology

- Most species overwinter as larvae
- Most species have two generations
  - Peak lawn damage done by overwintered larvae
  - Second generation feeds in July, August
- Adults rest on grass or adjacent vegetation during the day
  - Adults fly at dusk, night
  - Eggs are dropped onto turfgrass during flight

**Typical Peak Damage:**
**Early spring (overwintered larvae)**

**Some species - July/August (2nd generation)**

# Blackbirds Feeding on Sod Webworms and Cutworms

Holes made by birds seeking sod webworm (or cutworm) caterpillars

# Diagnostic:  Fecal pellets produced by sod webworm caterpillar

**Piles of fecal pellets collect where sod webworms (and cutworms) rest**

# Diagnosis of Sod Webworm Damage

- Turfgrass slow to green in spring
- Blackbirds feed on the lawn
- Close inspection may show piles of pelleted frass, composed of grass particles

# Vagabond Crambus

*Agriphila vulgivagellus*