# GRAPE BERRY MOTH

## Lepidoptera: Tortricidae

*Paralobesia vietana*

Bug of the Month



**Background** . The grape berry moth (GBM) is an insect pest of grapes in the eastern United States. GBM larvae feed grapevine blossoms and berries, which damages the plant and causes yield losses. Individual larvae typically feed on many berries within the same cluster, which increases direct crop damage and increases the risk for pathogen infections.

**Biology.** GBMs are active in vineyards from May to September, and have 2-3 generations per year, depending on the climate. GBM adults are small and brown, reaching about ¼" long, and have a brown band visible across the middle of the wings. Adults emerge in late spring from brown-colored pupae (1/5" long) that overwinter in nearby leaf litter, mate, and the females commence laying eggs on grape blossoms. Larvae hatch from these eggs in 3-6 days and reach adulthood just as young grape clusters develop on the vines. This second generation of adults will lay eggs on the grape clusters. As the larvae hatch, they burrow into the fruit and hollow out developing grapes, causing economic injury and yield loss. Upon completing development, the larvae will leave the berries and drop down into the leaf litter to pupate over the winter.

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