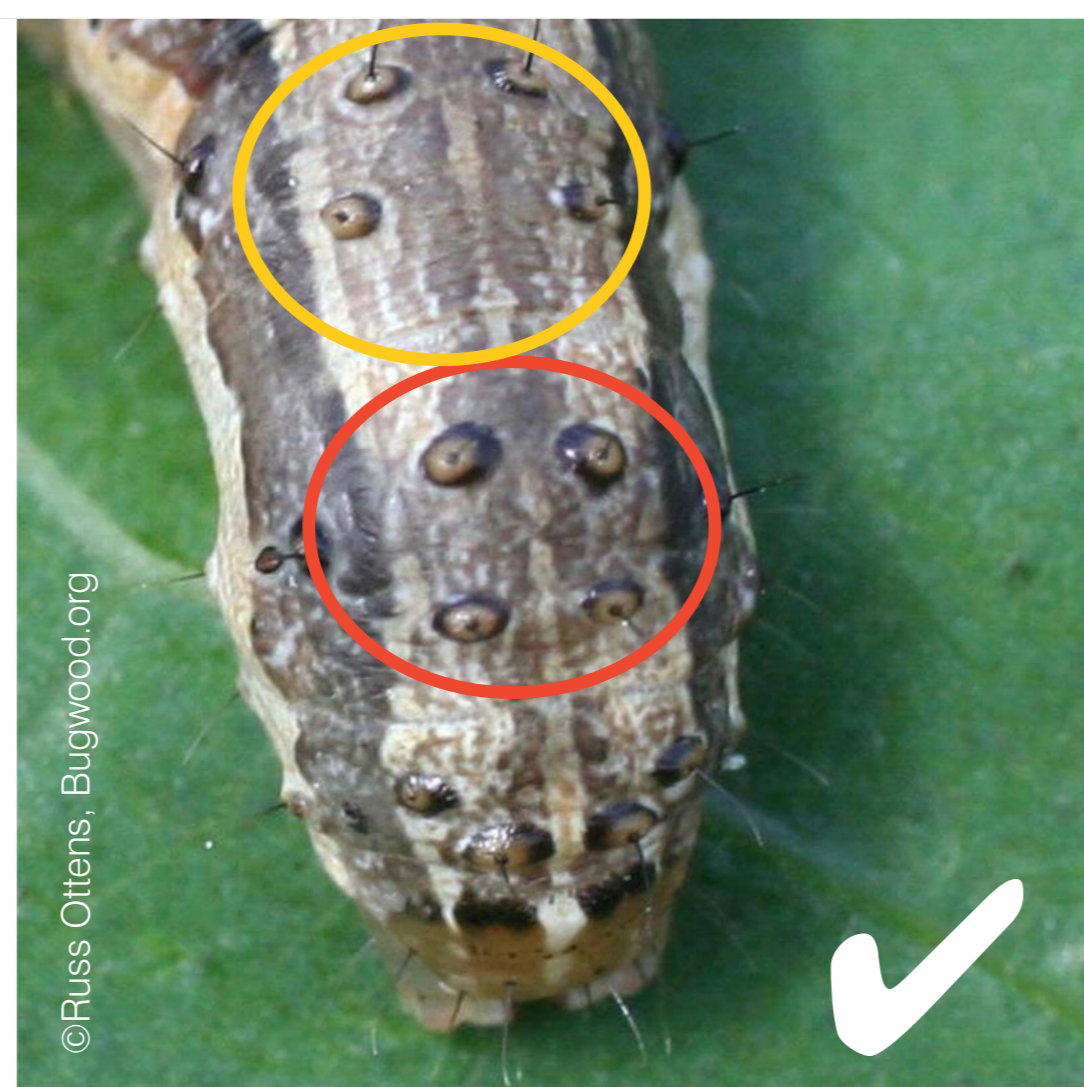
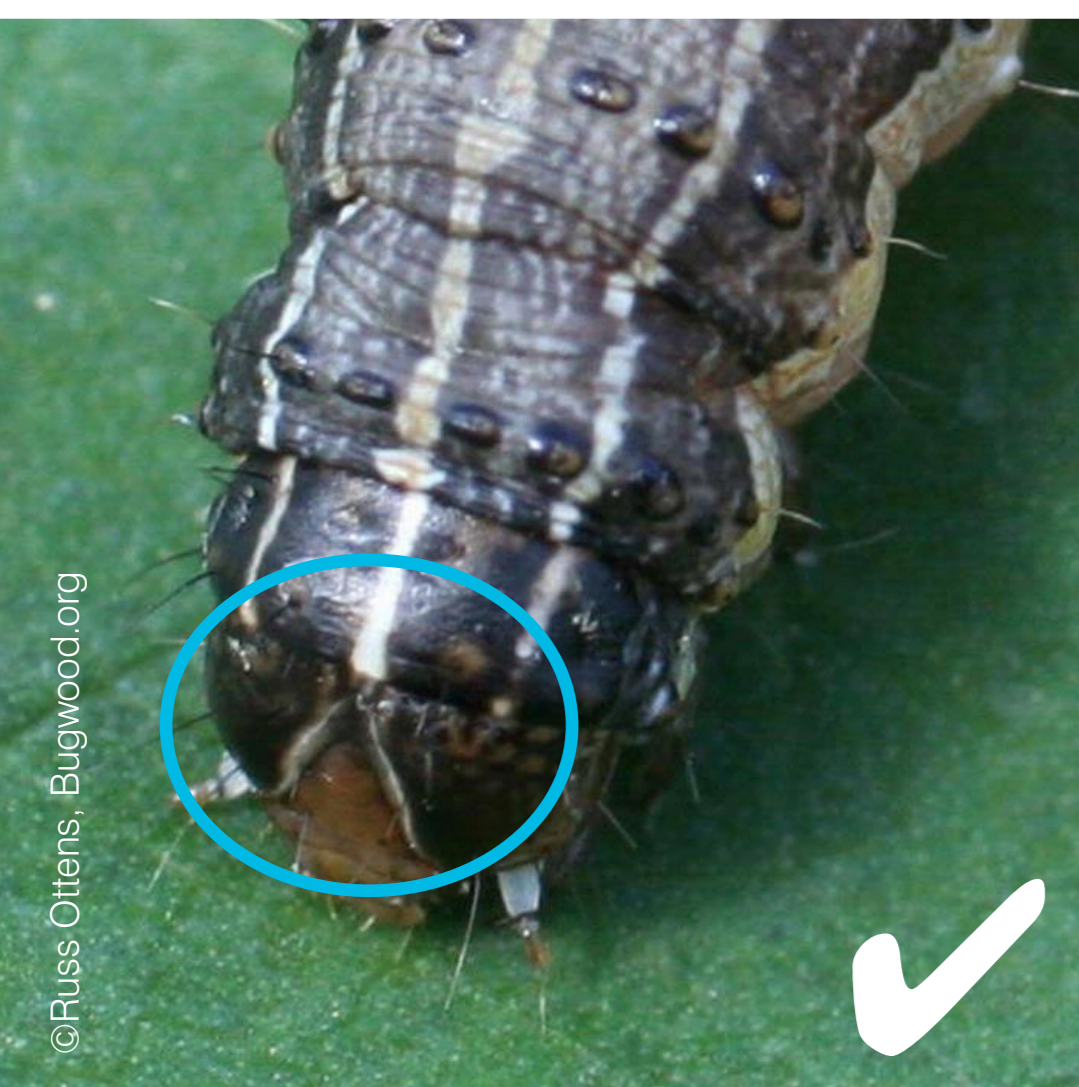


## How to identify...

# Fall armyworm



**Fall armyworm** (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is a new pest in Africa, attacking maize, but can also feed on other crops.

The caterpillars are mainly found feeding on young maize plants, but they can also attack a range of other crops including millet, sorghum, rice, wheat, sugar cane and vegetables.

Leaf damage is usually characterized by ragged feeding, and moist sawdust-like frass near the funnel and upper leaves. Early feeding can appear to be similar to other stem borers. Deep feeding in the leaf funnel may destroy developing tassels.

Caterpillars tend to enter through the side of the ear and feed on developing kernels. This is in contrast to stem borer caterpillars that normally enter the ear from the top or the bottom.

## IDENTIFY

- Does it have a dark head with an upside down pale Y-shaped marking on the front (blue circle)?
- Does each of the body segments have a pattern of four raised spots when seen from above (yellow circle)?
- Does it have four dark spots forming a square on the second to last body segment (red circle)?
- Is its skin smooth to the touch?

## ACT

If you suspect you have 'fall armyworm' on your crops:

- Please take close up photographs (from above) of the head and tail of the caterpillar.
- Please provide us with information about the date you took the photo, the location and the crop.
- If your device has GPS please send also the coordinates.
- Send photographs and information to:

- If you suspect you have fall armyworm contact your local diagnostic facility or instructions on how to send samples: