

What is Pink Ballworm?

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About Pink Ballworm:

- It is one of the **most destructive pests of cotton**.
- **Scientific name:** *Pectinophora gossypiella*
- **Distribution:** Originally **native to India**, it is now **recorded in nearly all the cotton-growing countries of the world**.
- **Description:**
 - The **adults are small moths about 3/8 inch long and are dark brown** with markings on the fore wing.
 - The **larval stage is the destructive** and identifiable stage.

- The **larvae have distinctive pink bands and can reach a length of ½ inches** right before they pupate.

- **Ecological Threat:**

- Pink bollworms are **major pests of cotton**.
- **Adults only last for 2 weeks, but females will lay 200 or more eggs.**
- **Adults lay eggs on cotton bolls;** once hatched, the **larvae eat the seeds and damage the fibers of the cotton**, reducing the yield and quality.
- **When the larvae mature, they cut out the boll** and drop to the ground and cocoon near the soil surface.]
- It has also been observed to **attack hibiscus, okra, and hollyhock plants**.

Q1) What is Pectinophora?

Pectinophora is a genus of moths in the family Gelechiidae. Perhaps the best known species is the pink bollworm, *Pectinophora gossypiella* (Saunders). *P. gossypiella* is one of the world's most destructive insect pests that causes terrible damage to cotton balls.

Source: [Deadly pink bollworm creeps into Bathinda, Mansa fields; experts recommend sprays](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-pink-ballworm/>

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