

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

## Bougainvillea Looper (*Disclisioprocta stellata*)

**Other common name:** Somber Carpet Moth

**Distribution:** Neotropical species introduced into many parts of the world. In the Western hemisphere: from Canada to Brazil. Found also in Africa and islands of the Indian Ocean. In the U.S.: southeastern states, HI and CA.

**Hosts:** Recorded on *Bougainvillea*, *Amaranthus*, *Boerhaavia*, *Mirabilis*, and *Pisonia*.

**Damage:** Larvae feed on foliage, producing deep notching cuts or consuming the entire leaf except the larger veins. During heavy infestations larvae may defoliate and kill younger plants.

**Field ID: Adults** with 25-33 mm wingspan. Wings mainly dark brown with black and tan wavy bands. Nocturnal moths.

**Larvae** (full grown) about 25-30 mm long. Locomotion with a characteristic looping gait. Young larvae are greenish with some rusty brown; later instars are more rusty brown.

**Pupae** around 11-13 mm long, mostly dark brown. Terminal segment armed with a pair of hooks.



Larva

Photo by G. Arakelian



**Feeding damage on Bougainvillea**