CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

California Pest Rating Profile: *Holocola thalassinana* Meyrick: A moth

Lepidoptera: Tortricidae

Pest Rating: A

Comment Period: 01/23/2026 – 03/09/2026

Initiating Event:

Holocola thalassinana, currently rated Q, was found in a nursery inspection in Orange County in October 2025. It has not been through the pest rating system. Therefore, a pest rating proposal is needed.

History & Status:

Background: Little information is available on the biology of *Holocola thalassinana*. Its larvae are reported to feed on plants in the family Myrtaceae, including *Leptospermum laevigatum* and *Melaleuca quinquenerva* (City of Melbourne). It likely also feeds on guava (*Psidium* species) and *Tristania laurina* (both also in the family Myrtaceae) based on the finds of larvae on plants in Orange and San Diego County nurseries. Regarding *M*. *quinquenervia*, larvae are reported to feed on flowers and to cause abortion of flowers (Rayamajhi et al., 2002). This moth is reported to be a leaf roller (Australian moths online), and larvae were reported from "spun shoots" of *L*. *laevigatum* (Meyrick, 1911).

Another *Holocola* species was reported to web *Acacia* phyllodes together and damage up to 90% of growing points (Hill and Dymock, 2019). This is provided as evidence of the potential of *Holocola* species to impact host plants.

Worldwide Distribution: *Holocola thalassinana* is only known to be established in Australia, where it is presumably native (Australian moths online).

Official Control: *Holocola thalassinana* is not known to be under official control.

California Distribution: *Holocola thalassinana* is not known to be established in California. However, there are several iNaturalist reports from San Diego County that appear to be this species (iNaturalist).

California Interceptions: *Holocola thalassinana* was found on a guava (*Psidium* species) plant in a nursery inspection in Orange County in October 2025 and on a *Tristania laurina* plant in a nursery in San Diego County in 2018 (California Department of Food and Agriculture).

The risk *Holocola thalassinana* poses to California is evaluated below.

Consequences of Introduction:

1) **Climate/Host Interaction:** *Holocola thalassinana* is probably capable of establishing in coastal southern California based on climate and presumed presence of ornamental plants in the family Myrtaceae in that area. Therefore, this moth receives a **Medium (2)** in this category.

   – Low (1) Not likely to establish in California; or likely to establish in very limited areas.

   – Medium (2) may be able to establish in a larger but limited part of California.

   – High (3) likely to establish a widespread distribution in California.

2) **Known Pest Host Range:** The reported hosts of *Holocola thalassinana* are limited to one plant family. Therefore, it receives a **Low (1)** in this category.

   – Low (1) has a very limited host range.

   – Medium (2) has a moderate host range.

– High (3) has a wide host range.

3) **Pest Reproductive and Dispersal Potential:** *Holocola thalassinana* could be moved with infested plants. Therefore, it receives a **Medium (2)** in this category.

   – Low (1) does not have high reproductive or dispersal potential.

   – Medium (2) has either high reproductive or dispersal potential.

   – High (3) has both high reproduction and dispersal potential.

4) **Economic Impact**. At least one host of *Holocola thalassinana*, *Leptospermum laevigatum*, is grown as an ornamental in California. Guavas (*Psidium* species) are grown in southern California. Although information was not found indicating that *H. thalassinana* has a significant impact on host plants in Australia, it is possible that impacts may be more severe in California, for example, if natural enemies that suppress this moth in Australia are not present in California. Therefore, it receives a **Medium (2)** in this category.

   Economic Impact: A, B

   A. The pest could lower crop yield.

   B. The pest could lower crop value (includes increasing crop production costs).

   C. The pest could trigger the loss of markets (includes quarantines).

   D. The pest could negatively change normal cultural practices.

   E. The pest can vector, or is vectored, by another pestiferous organism.

   F. The organism is injurious or poisonous to agriculturally important animals.

   G. The organism can interfere with the delivery or supply of water for agricultural uses.

   Economic Impact Score: Medium

   – Low (1) causes 0 or 1 of these impacts.

   – Medium (2) causes 2 of these impacts.

   – High (3) causes 3 or more of these impacts.

5) **Environmental Impact**. There are no native California plants in the family Myrtaceae. Treatments of infested trees may be triggered. Therefore, *H. thalassinana* receives a **High (3)** in this category.

Evaluate the environmental impact of the pest on California using the criteria below.

Environmental Impact: D, E

A. The pest could have a significant environmental impact such as lowering biodiversity, disrupting natural communities, or changing ecosystem processes.

B. The pest could directly affect threatened or endangered species.

C. The pest could impact threatened or endangered species by disrupting critical habitats.

D. The pest could trigger additional official or private treatment programs.

E. The pest significantly impacts cultural practices, home/urban gardening or ornamental plantings.

Environmental Impact Score: High (3)

– Low (1) causes none of the above to occur.

– Medium (2) causes one of the above to occur.

– High (3) causes two or more of the above to occur.

Consequences of Introduction to California for *Holocola thalassinana*: Medium (10)

Add up the total score and include it here.

–Low = 5-8 points

–Medium = 9-12 points

–High = 13-15 points

6) **Post Entry Distribution and Survey Information:** *Holocola thalassinana* is not known to be established in California. It receives a **Not established (0)** in this category.

–Not established (0) Pest never detected in California, or known only from incursions.

–Low (-1) Pest has a localized distribution in California, or is established in one suitable climate/host area (region).

–Medium (-2) Pest is widespread in California but not fully established in the endangered area, or pest established in two contiguous suitable climate/host areas.

–High (-3) Pest has fully established in the endangered area, or pest is reported in more than two contiguous or non-contiguous suitable climate/host areas.

Final Score:

7) The final score is the consequences of introduction score minus the post-entry distribution and survey information score: Medium (10)

Uncertainty:

Although there is relatively low uncertainty regarding the potential of this moth to establish in California (the climate is likely suitable and at least one known host is grown as an ornamental in the state), there is more uncertainty regarding how widely distributed it could become. There is significant uncertainty regarding the presence of this moth in California. Reports on the citizen science web page iNaturalist suggest it may be established in San Diego County. There is significant uncertainty regarding the potential of this moth to impact agriculture in the state. No information was found regarding how significantly it impacts host plants. The potential for this species to impact ornamental plants and guava may have been overestimated in this proposal.

Conclusion and Rating Justification:

Holocola thalassinana is a moth that appears to be limited to the plant family Myrtaceae. It is not known to be established in California. It could impact ornamental plants and guava in this state. For these reasons, an “A” rating is justified.

References:

Australian moths online. Accessed November 5, 2025: https://moths.csiro.au/species_taxonomy/holocola-thalassinana/

California Department of Food and Agriculture. Pest and damage record database. Accessed December 19, 2025: https://pdr.cdfa.ca.gov/PDR/pdrmainmenu.aspx

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Hill, R., and Dymock, J. 2019. Invertebrates associated with *Acacia longifoliae* Andr. (Willd.) (Leguminosaae) in Northland and Horowhenua. Accessed January 2, 2026:

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Meyrick,E. 1911. Revision of Australian Tortricina. Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales. 36:224-303.

Rayamajhi, M. B., Purcell, M. F., Van, T. K., Center, T. D., Pratt, P. D., and Buckingham, G. R. 2002. 8. Australian paperbark tree (Melaleuca). Page 117-130 in (Van Driesche, R., Blossey, B., Hoddle, M., Lyon, S., and Reardon, R.) Biological Control of Invasive Plants in the Eastern United States. USDA USFS FHTET-2002-04

Responsible Party:

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***Comment Period: 01/23/2026 – 03/09/2026**

***NOTE:**

You must be registered and logged in to post a comment. If you have registered and have not received the registration confirmation, please contact us at permits[@]cdfa.ca.gov.

Comment Format:

- Comments should refer to the appropriate California Pest Rating Proposal Form subsection(s) being commented on, as shown below.

Example Comment:
Consequences of Introduction: 1. Climate/Host Interaction: [Your comment that relates to "Climate/Host Interaction" here.]

- Posted comments will not be able to be viewed immediately.
- Comments may not be posted if they:

Contain inappropriate language which is not germane to the pest rating proposal;

Contains defamatory, false, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, pornographic, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, discriminatory or illegal material;

Violates agency regulations prohibiting sexual harassment or other forms of discrimination;

Violates agency regulations prohibiting workplace violence, including threats.

- Comments may be edited prior to posting to ensure they are entirely germane.

- Posted comments shall be those which have been approved in content and posted to the website to be viewed, not just submitted.

Pest Rating: A