

# Mexico moth threat

A non-native moth whose larvae threaten to decimate Mexico's emblematic flat-leafed cactus has invaded the country's mainland for the first time, something authorities have feared for decades

***Opuntia cactus:***  
Known as "nopal",  
food source and  
important part  
of ecosystem



**Cancun:** First  
sighting of moth  
on mainland

***Nopal  
moth:*** Native  
to Argentina,  
exported to Australia,  
South Africa and Caribbean  
islands since 1920s to eradicate  
cacti occupying valuable farm land