





Technical Bulletin for: African Sweet Potato Weevil

Cylas puncticollis (Boheman) • Coleoptera, Brentidae • CYLPUN



DISTRIBUTION	Throughout Sub-Saharan Africa
HOSTS	Sweet Potato, Morning Glory, Beach Morning Glory, Wild Potato Vine, Cotton, Keznaf and Water Spinach.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult	About 5-8 mm long, initially white but later turning gray and black in color
Larvae	Legless, curved, cylindrical and creamy white, measuring 5-10 mm long
Eggs	Oval, pale yellow, 0.45*0.3 mm in size.
LIFE HISTORY	After adults emerge, females take 2–24 days before laying eggs, depending on temperature. Eggs are inserted singly into a feeding hole, which the female then seals with a plug of fecal matter. An individual female lays a maximum of 17 eggs per day and a total of up to 545 eggs in 178 days. The maximum number of days an adult weevil can live is 309. Eggs are mostly laid in roots through soil cracks, especially during the dry season, but can also be laid in stems, especially at the stem base if roots are absent. After hatching, the larvae feed inside the root or stem until adults emerge. Larvae bore numerous irregular tunnels and deposit their excreta. A single root or stem can have more than 10 larvae, whose feeding activity severely damages the root.

MONITORING INFORMATION

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, LURE, FIELD LIFE	Decyl-E-2-Butanoate in a Red Rubber Septum. Lure longevity: 30 Days	
TRAP TO USE	Green Uni Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Place 1-2 baited traps per ha, within close proximity of potentially infested host plants.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Plant only within fields that have not had an infestation within the last year, at least 1km away from any infested land, and using resistant or tolerant cultivars, Remove all plant debris upon harvest. Crop rotation has also proven effective. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	

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