





Technical Bulletin for: South American Palm Weevil

Rhynchophorus palmarum (Linnaeus) • Coleoptera, Curculionidae • RHYPAL



DISTRIBUTION	Much of South America, up to Central America and recently spreading into North America
HOSTS	Coconut, Date, African Oil, Assai, Sago, and Canary Island Date Palm. Also a host of sugarcane, banana, cacao, custard apple, breadfruit, papaya citrus, mango, avocado and guava.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult	40-50 mm in length. Have a black hard cuticle, showing sexual dimorphism.
Larvae	Legless, initially 3-4 mm long through reaching 50-60 mm by maturity, slightly curved, and creamy white in color, turning darker before pupating
Eggs	2.5 mm in size, white, with rounded extremes, and protected by a brown waxy secretion
LIFE HISTORY	The larvae feed exclusively on live vegetative tissue. The females lay their eggs inside the plant tissue by making a hole in the plant with the rostrum, normally when the surface of the plant tissue presents some damage, near or on the internodal area of the palm trunk next to the crown. Larvae go through 6-10 instars, with the larval stage lasting roughly 52 days. Afterwards, they enter the pupal stage, lasting 8-23 days, after which they remain in their cocoons as adults for about 8 additional days. Adult males may live ~45 days and females may live ~40 days.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Rhynchophorol and Ethyl Acetate in a Coaster Lure Packet. Lure longevity: 30 Days.	
TRAP TO USE	Palm Weevil Pail Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	In smaller fields, use one trap every 1 to 1 ½ acre. A minimum of two traps should also be used for fields of uneven topography. For larger fields (10 acres or greater) use 1-2 traps per five acres. Traps should be placed at approximately the same height as the crop. Traps should be checked weekly or more frequently, depending on pest population. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Due to how larvae remain completely inside their galleries, it may be difficult to detect the pest. Inspect plants for damage to vegetation tissue, or for dying plants.	

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