



Pacific Pests and Pathogens - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Coconut hispine beetle (059)



Photo 1. Adult hispine beetles, *Brontispa longissima*, between the leaflets of the spear leaf.



Photo 2. Large areas of decay caused by the feeding of the hispine beetle, *Brontispa longissima*, on the variety Malayan Dwarf.



Photo 3. Severely decayed leaves of Malayan dwarf seedling caused by the coconut hispine beetle, *Brontispa longissima*.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Asia, Southeast Asia, Oceania. On coconuts, betel nut, sago palm, oil palm, and a number of ornamental and wild palms. An important pest.
- Life cycle of beetle within unopened spear leaf. Grubs and adults chew young leaves giving a scorched look.
- Damage severe on seedlings and young palms, making them more susceptible to drought and disease.
- Natural enemies: several parasitoid wasps.
- Cultural control: local varieties more tolerant than exotic types, e.g., Malayan Dwarf, and Federated Malay States are susceptible.
- Chemical control: PDPs: chilli, derris, or pyrethrum; synthetic pyrethroids, but likely to kill natural enemies.

Common Name

Coconut hispine beetle, coconut leaf hispa

Scientific Name

Brontispa longissima

This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests and Pathogens*

The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

