



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Banana weevil (109)



Photo 1. Adult banana weevil, *Cosmopolites sordidus*.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On banana and *Musa* species. Grubs burrow into the corms causing rots, small bunches, and weak plants that are easily blown over. Symptoms are like “toppling” which is caused by nematodes.
- Estimate population with 10 cm thick stem discs, 20 per ha; treat if >4 weevils per disc at 5 days.
- Cultural control: plant only weevil-free suckers (slice corms to check for grubs/tunnels); leave land fallow for >3 months before replanting; hot water against nematode (53°C for 20 mins.) will kill grubs; if plants fall, cut the stem so it dries rapidly.
- Chemical control: chlorpyrifos, fipronil, bifenthrin, imidacloprid. Pheromone available for mass capture.

Common Name

Banana weevil, Banana weevil borer, Banana root borer

Scientific Name

Cosmopolites sordidus

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press. Photo 1 Gerald McCormack, Cook Islands Biodiversity & Natural Heritage. (<http://cookislands.bishopmuseum.org>).

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This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

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

