



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

<https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ppp/>

Cocoa weevil borer (061)



Photo 1. Grub or larva of cocoa weevil borer, *Pantorhytes* sp.



Photo 2. Adult cocoa weevil borer, *Pantorhytes* sp.



Photo 3. Adult cocoa weevil borer, *Pantorhytes* sp., damage to cocoa pod.



Photo 4. Crazy ant, *Anoplolepis gracilipes*.



Photo 5. The weaver ant, *Oecophylla smaragdina*, on a cocoa pod colonised by mealybugs.

Summary

- Narrow distribution. Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands. On cocoa and several commercial forest trees, e.g., *Eucalyptus* and *Terminalia*.
- Eggs (2 mm) laid singly in cracks in trunk and branches; larvae bore into tree (3-9 months), then pupate; adults (1.5 mm long) without wings, feed on flowers, bark, surface of pods.

- Larvae cause dieback, and allow entry of e.g., *Phytophthora* (causing cankers) and termites.
- Cultural control: handpick in middle of day when weevils come down from the top of the canopy; inspect for tunnels, using wire to kill larvae; use coconuts for shade (possibly, ants reduce weevil numbers).
- Chemical control: mix acephate, white oil, metalaxyl (or phosphorus acid) and brush into holes; repeat after 2 weeks.

Common Name

Cocoa weevil borer

Scientific Name

Pantorhytes species. At least 13 species are recognised as pests of cocoa, most of them from Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea. *Pantorhytes biplagiatus* is a serious pest of cocoa in Solomon Islands. It is described here.

AUTHORS Helen Tsatsia & Grahame Jackson

Photo 4 Global Invasive Species Database. (<http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=110>).

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC/2010/090: *Strengthening integrated crop management research in the Pacific Islands in support of sustainable intensification of high-value crop production*, implemented by the University of Queensland and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

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.



Copyright © 2020. All rights reserved.

E"@"2