



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Coconut red palm weevil (180)



Photo 1. Adult red palm weevil, *Rhyncophorus ferrugineus*.



Photo 2. Larvae of red palm weevil, *Rhyncophorus ferrugineus*.



Photo 3. Adult, larva and pupa, red palm weevil, *Rhyncophorus ferrugineus*.



Photo 4. Damage at the end of a frond from a *Phoenix* palm; pupae of the red palm weevil, *Rhyncophorus ferrugineus*, in fibrous cocoons are lined up on the back of a petiole, in the foreground.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. On coconut, and other palms: betel nut, oil palm, sago palm, date palm, and ornamental palms. An important pest.
- Adults and larvae tunnel into the base of stems and fronds; leaves in the crown wilt and die. Larvae tunnel into the soft insides for up to 1 m.
- Often difficult to see the symptoms until internal damage is severe.
- Natural enemies: red-eye assassin bug; earwigs.
- Cultural control: destroy infested stems by cutting and burying; if leaves are removed from palms during harvests, cut them where leaflets start.
- Chemical control: commercial pheromone lures available; trunk injections unlikely to be economic.

Common Name

Red palm weevil; also known as the Asian palm weevil or sago palm weevil.

Scientific Name

Rhyncophorus ferrugineus

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Photo 1 John Kabashima, UC Cooperative Extension, Bugwood.org. Photos 2&3 Christina Hoddle, University of California - Riverside, Bugwood.org. Photo 4 Küchenkraut *Rhyncophorus ferrugineus*. Wikipedia. Diagram The Star Online (Malaysia). Beetle may destroy palm oil sector. (<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2016/04/11/beetle-may-destroy-palm-oil-sector-red-palm-weevil-infestations-threat-en-to-wipe-out-local-plantation/>).

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