



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Ginger weevil (357)



Photo 1. Rot on yam caused by the ginger weevil, *Elytroteinus geophilus*.



Photo 2. Mature larvae of the ginger weevil, *Elytroteinus geophilus*.



Photo 3. Larva of the ginger weevil, *Elytroteinus geophilus*, showing the abdominal segments and folds.



Photo 4. Pupa of the ginger weevil, *Elytroteinus geophilus*.



Photo 5. Adult ginger weevil, *Elytroteinus geophilus*.



Photo 6. Adult ginger weevil, *Elytroteinus geophilus*, from above, showing the faint white markings on the wing cases and their blunt ends.



Photo 7. Adult ginger weevil, *Elytroteinus geophilus*, from below, showing the deep groove or slot between the front legs.

Summary

- Narrow distribution. Common in Pacific island countries on wide range of crops, including ginger, chillies, eggplant, kava, passionfruit, root crops.
- Larvae burrow into roots, stems and storage organs.
- Adult weevil and West Indian sweet potato weevil (WISPW) similar. Ginger weevil covered in fine scales, with no clear white pattern on wing cases; WISPW with thinner scales and clear white markings on the wing cases (**see Fact Sheet no. 119**).
- Cultural control: check planting material for carry-over larvae; treating ginger and yams for nematodes (hot water at 51°C for 10 mins) will kill weevils; check at harvest and avoid storing infested roots, corms, tubers.
- Chemical control: thiram/latex mixture painted on passionfruit cankers (Samoa). Possibly, dipping planting materials in imidacloprid.

Common Name

Ginger weevil, Fiji lemon weevil.

Scientific Name

Elytroteinus geophilus; previously, *Elytroteinus subtruncatus*.

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Information from *Elytroteinus subtruncatus* (Fairmaire). Fiji Ginger weevil. Knowledge Master. University of Hawai'i, Manoa. (<http://www.extento.hawaii.edu/kbase/crop/type/elytrote.htm>); and from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany. Photos 1&5 Mani Mua, SPC, Sigatoka Research Station, Fiji. Photos 2&4 Chris Reid & John Martin, Australian Museum, Sydney. Photos 3,6&7 MAF Plant Health and Environment Laboratory (2010) Fijian Ginger Weevil (*Elytroteinus geophilus*). PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>).

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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.

