



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Passionfruit collar rot (155)



Photo 1. Collar region of passion fruit stem showing swelling and rot caused by the ginger weevil, *Elytroteinus subtruncatus*, followed by wound-invading fungi.



Photo 2. Collar region of the stem cut open to show the grubs inside of the ginger weevil, *Elytroteinus subtruncatus*.

Summary

- Narrow distribution. Oceania. The ginger weevil has a wide host range, including coconut, chillies, eggplant, kava, roselle, sweetpotato, and some orchids. An important condition caused by insects and fungi.
- A problem just above soil level (the collar) caused by the ginger weevil and two fungi.
- Weevils lay eggs in the stem, larvae make tunnels and fungi cause rots. Later, the swollen stems crack, leaves fall, vines die back and death results.
- A serious problem, worse during the dry season.
- Cultural control: none recommended.
- Chemical control: use a fungicide, thriam, mixed with latex, painted on the collar region.

Common Name

Collar rot

Scientific Name

This is a problem caused by an insect and two fungi. It includes the ginger weevil, *Elytroteinus geophilus* (previously, *subtruncatus*), and the fungi *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* and *Nectria haematococca*. The latter is also known by its asexual name, *Fusarium solani*.

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Information (and Photos 1&2) from Gerlach WWP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) Gmbh, Germany.

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