



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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

Rice (lesser grain) weevil (338)



Photo 1. Rice weevil, *Sitophilus oryzae*, on maize. Note the characteristic emergence holes of the adult from the grain.



Photo 2. Rice weevil, *Sitophilus oryzae*, on rice.



Photo 3. Rice weevil, *Sitophilus oryzae*, adult on maize.



Photo 4. Rice weevil, *Sitophilus oryzae*. Adult, side view.



Photo 5. Rice weevil, *Sitophilus oryzae*, showing four faint, reddish spots at the corner of the wing case.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On rice, maize, sorghum, wheat, cassava, and other stored products. Important weevil.
- Destructive: attacks sound grains, leaving large cavities, allowing secondary invasions by insects, mites, and fungi.
- Eggs laid into holes chewed in grain, and then plugged. Larvae feed inside the grain, and pupate there. Adults, up to 4 mm, reddish-brown to black with four light-reddish to yellowish spots on the wings.
- Spread with movement of stored grain; the weevil is not a strong flyer.
- Cultural control: harvest at maturity; dry to 12%; keep storage rooms and areas clean; spray bins, and use new sacks; if infestations occurs, locate and treat: if small - sieve, freeze or wrap in plastic and bury; if large, fumigate. Store small amounts of grain in plastic containers.
- Chemical control: consult full fact sheet for details; always check whether the product is for treating equipment, bins and buildings

or for treating grain for human use and animal feed. READ THE INSTRUCTIONS.

Common Name

Rice weevil, lesser grain weevil, small snout weevil

Scientific Name

Sitophilus oryzae; a similar species (*Sitophilus zeamais*) attacks maize (see **Fact Sheet no. 339**).

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

¹Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. London; and CABI (2015) *Sitotroga oryzae* (lesser grain weevil) Crop Protection Compendium (www.cabi.org/cpc); and Rice weevil Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland Government. (<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/plants/field-crops-and-pastures/broadacre-field-crops/integrated-pest-management/a-z-insect-pest-list/stored-grain-insect-pests/rice-weevil>); Photos 1&2 Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org; Photos 3&4 Walker K (2006) rice weevil (*Sitophilus oryzae*) PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>).

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC2010/090: *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.

