



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Sweetpotato West Indian weevil (119)



Photo 1. Adult West Indian sweetpotato weevil, *Euscepes postfasciatus*, showing distinctive white patches on the wing case.



Photo 2. Adult West Indian sweetpotato weevil, *Euscepes postfasciatus*, showing typical weevil snout, and part of the distinctive white patch on the wing case. The body is covered in short stiff hairs.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Central and South America, Caribbean, parts of US and Asia. An important pest.
- Adults lay eggs in base of stem ('crown') and in storage roots, and larvae do the damage by making tunnels. Same damage as sweetpotato weevil (*Cylas*).
- Does not fly; crawls from weedy borders.
- Spreads in cuttings and storage roots, same as *Cylas*.
- Cultural control: early, deep rooting varieties; plant only tip cuttings; remove wild morning glory; hill-up, covering cracks during dry times; ideally, make one-time harvest; 3-4-year crop rotation; after harvest, collect and destroy vines and infested storage roots.
- Chemical control: treat vines (bifenthrin); treat plants in field every 3-4 weeks (bifenthrin or fipronil).

Common Name

West Indian sweetpotato weevil

Scientific Name

Euscepes batatae; previously *Euscepes postfasciatus*

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from CABi (2014) *Euscepes postfasciatus* (West Indian sweet potato weevil) Crop Protection Compendium. (www.cabi.org/cpc); and from ¹Reid C Identification of sweetpotato weevil species in the west Pacific. Australian Museum. Sydney. Photos 1&2 Gerald McCormack, Cook Islands Biodiversity & Natural Heritage. (<http://cookislands.bishopmuseum.org>).

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*

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Australian Government
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