

Coconut hispine beetle (059)

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Asia, Southeast Asia, Oceania. On coconuts, betel nut, sago palm, oil palm, and a number of ornamental and wild palms. An important pest.
- Life cycle of beetle within unopened spear leaf. Grubs and adults chew young leaves giving a scorched look.
- Damage severe on seedlings and young palms, making them more susceptible to drought and disease.
- Natural enemies: several parasitoid wasps.
- Cultural control: local varieties more tolerant than exotic types, e.g., Malayan Dwarf, and Federated Malay States are susceptible.
- Chemical control: PDPs: chilli, derris, or pyrethrum; synthetic pyrethroids, but likely to kill natural enemies.

Common Name

Coconut hispine beetle, coconut leaf hispa.

Scientific Name

Brontispa longissima

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Information from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Brontispa longissima* (Gestro). *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press; and from Brumley C (2008) coconut hispine beetle (*Brontispa longissima*): PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>.

Produced with support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research under project PC/2010/090: *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.



Photo 1. Adult hispine beetles, *Brontispa longissima*, between the leaflets of the spear leaf.



Photo 2. Large areas of decay caused by the feeding of the hispine beetle, *Brontispa longissima*, on the variety Malayan Dwarf.



Photo 3. Severely decayed leaves of Malayan dwarf seedling caused by the coconut hispine beetle, *Brontispa longissima*.

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