

## Oribius weevils (273)

### Summary

- Narrow distribution. Papua New Guinea, Australia. Major pests of avocado, capsicum and citrus in Papua New Guinea, but also on many other vegetables and fruit trees.
- Eggs laid in soil. Larvae feed on roots, Adults dark 4-7 mm, do not fly, but are highly mobile.
- Cultural control: avoid overlapping crops; avoid land where weevils severe last crop; crop rotation, using tolerant crops, e.g., shallots, carrots, cabbage, asparagus, or use them as intercrops or borders; weed.
- Chemical control: synthetic pyrethroids at ¼ does recommended; apply early morning or later afternoon when weevils are on the plants.

### Common Name

Grey weevils, oribus weevils

### Scientific Name

*Oribius* species. Note that there are more than 50 species, of which seven are crop pests. *Oribius inimicus* and *Oribius destructor* are the two most common and damaging grey weevils of crops in the highlands of Papua New Guinea.



Photo 1. Grey weevil, *Oribius* species damage to taro. Notice the chewed leaf stalks, and downward bending of the leaves.



Photo 2. Grey weevil, *Oribius* species damage to taro, showing chewed leaf stalks.



Photo 4. Grey weevil, *Oribius inimicus*.



Photo 5. Grey weevil, *Oribius destructor*.



Photo 6. Grey weevil, *Oribius destructor* (compared to *Oribius inimicus* the body is shiny black).



Photo 3. Grey weevil, *Oribius inimicus*.



Photo 7. 'Thickhead', *Crassocephalum crepidioides*, a common host of grey weevils, *Oribius* species.

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Information from Wesis P, et al. (2010) Host use and crop impacts of *Oribius* Marshall species (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea. Bulletin of Entomological Research 100: 133-143. ([https://www.researchgate.net/publication/24277626\\_Host\\_use\\_and\\_crop\\_impacts\\_of\\_Oribius\\_Marshall\\_species\\_Coleoptera\\_Curculionidae\\_in\\_Eastern\\_Highlands\\_Province\\_Papua\\_New\\_Guinea](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/24277626_Host_use_and_crop_impacts_of_Oribius_Marshall_species_Coleoptera_Curculionidae_in_Eastern_Highlands_Province_Papua_New_Guinea)); and from Ero M, et al. (2007). Impact and management of *Oribius* weevils in Papua New Guinea. National Agricultural Research Institute. *NARI Technical Bulletin*, No. 19. Photos 3-6 Walker K (2006) *Oribius* weevil (*Oribius inimicus* and *Oribius destructor*: PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>. Photo 7 Thickhead, *Crassocephalum crepidioides*. Brisbane City Council weed identification tool. (<http://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/thickhead>).

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.

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