

Coconut red palm weevil (180)

Summary

- Widespread distribution. On coconut, and other palms: betel nut, oil palm, sago palm, date palm, and ornamental palms. An important pest.
- Adults and larvae tunnel into the base of stems and fronds; leaves in the crown wilt and die. Larvae tunnel into the soft insides for up to 1 m.
- Often difficult to see the symptoms until internal damage is severe.
- Natural enemies: red-eye assassin bug; earwigs.
- Cultural control: destroy infested stems by cutting and burying; if leaves are removed from palms during harvests, cut them where leaflets start.
- Chemical control: commercial pheromone lures available; trunk injections unlikely to be economic.

Common Name

Red palm weevil; also known as the Asian palm weevil or sago palm weevil.

Scientific Name

Rhynchophorus ferrugineus



Photo 4. Damage at the end of a frond from a *Phoenix* palm; pupae of the red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*, in fibrous cocoons are lined up on the back



Photo 1. Adult red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*.



Photo 2. Larvae of red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*.



Photo 3. Adult, larva and pupa, red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*.

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Information from Rhode BE, Crosby T (2012) Red Palm Weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*): PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>; and McCaffrey, S, Walker K (2012) Red palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*): PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>; and *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (red palm weevil) (2020) Crop Protection Compendium. (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/47472>); and from Malumphy C, Moran H (2017) Red palm weevil *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*. Plant Pest Factsheet. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. (<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/assets/factsheets/Rhynchophorus-ferrugineus-Defra-PP-Factsheet-Oct-2016-FINAL4.pdf>). Photo 1 John Kabashima, UC Cooperative Extension, Bugwood.org. Photos 2&3 Christina Hoddle, University of California - Riverside, Bugwood.org. Photo 4 Küchenkraut. *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (2021) Wikipedia. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhynchophorus_ferrugineus).

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