

## Rice (lesser grain) weevil (338)

### 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**).



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.

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

<sup>1</sup>Information from Swaine G (1971) *Agricultural Zoology in Fiji*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office. London; and CABI (2015) *Sitophilus oryzae* (lesser grain weevil). Crop Protection Compendium (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/10887>); and Rickman J, Gummert M (undated) Pest management in storage. IRRL (<http://www.knowledgebank.irri.org/search-results?gsquery=common+post+harvest+insects>); and from DPI&RD (2019) *Insect pests of stored grain*. Agriculture and Food. Government of Western Australia. (<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pest-insects/insect-pests-stored-grain>). 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.padi.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.

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