

Rose beetle (107)

Summary

- Narrow distribution. South Asia, Oceania. On *bele*, cocoa, coffee, ginger, yams and many other crops and weeds. An important pest.
- Eggs 7-10 cm deep in soil, hatching to C-shaped grubs with orange heads, feeding on roots; adults, dark brown, 12.5 mm long, with grey-white scales.
- Adults make holes in young to middle-aged leaves at night, often leaving the veins.
- Cultural control: barriers (coconut fronds, bamboo) around cocoa seedlings; plant cocoa under shade (30-40%); light traps; do not plant near fences of *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, a preferred host.
- Chemical control: use synthetic pyrethroids.

Common Name

Rose beetle

Scientific Name

Adoretus versutus



Photo 1. Adult rose beetle, *Adoretus versutus*, about 12 mm long, brown and covered in brown-red hairs.



Photo 2. Adult rose beetle, *Adoretus versutus*, and its feeding holes.



Photo 4. Adult rose beetle, *Adoretus versutus*, side view.



Photo 3. Adult rose beetle, *Adoretus versutus*, upper or view of the back.



Photo 5. Yam, *Dioscorea alata*, with typical damage from rose beetle, *Adoretus versutus*. The younger, presumably softer, leaves are eaten in preference.



Photo 6. Rose beetle, *Adoretus versutus*, damage on *Hibiscus tiliaceus*.



Photo 7. Bele, *Abelmoschus esculenta*, with typical damage from rose beetle, *Adoretus versutus*.



Photo 8. Damage to *Terminalia catappa* (tropical or Pacific almond) by rose beetle, *Adoretus versutus*.

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Information from Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Adoretus versutus* Harold. *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press, Melbourne. Photo 1&2 Gerald McCormack, Cook Islands Biodiversity & Natural Heritage (<http://cookslands.bishopmuseum.org/>). Photo 3&4 Walker K (2007) *Adoretus versutus*. PaDIL - (<http://www.padil.gov.au>). Photo 5 Richard Markham, ACIAR, Canberra.

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