

Red Palm Weevil

Rhynchophorus ferrugineus

Not known to be present in Hawai'i

A species of snout beetle that is known as the most destructive palm pest in the world.



Photo: Adult beetle. Alan Roberts cabi.org



Photo: Crown damage. cisrucl.edu



Impacts

- Most destructive palm pest in the world especially to coconut, date, sage, and oil palms.
- Huge risk to Hawai'i's native and endemic palm species.
- Adults can vector a nematode which causes red-ring disease of palms (although the two species have not yet been found to occur simultaneously).
- Damage could lead to the palm falling over.



Identification

- Egg: Whitish-yellow, smooth, shiny, cylindrical w/rounded ends.
- Larva: Creamy white to ivory, grow up to about 5 cm (2 in).
- Adult: Avg 3.8 cm (1.5 in) long, red to reddish brown and black with variable patterns. Adults fly.
- Larvae tunnel and feed from the top of a palm tree through the trunk; damage is often undetected until the tree dies and the crown topples.
- Feeding debris (frass) and thick white fluid may ooze from entry holes.
- Gnawing sounds can be heard within a tree when large numbers of larvae are feeding.



Photo: Adult beetles and larva. cdfac.gov



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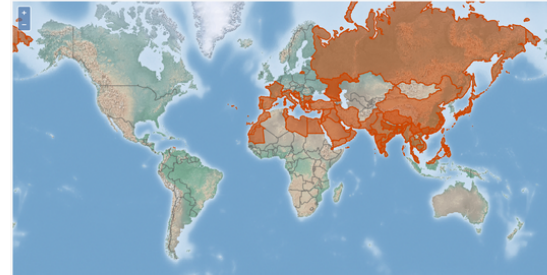
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Vectors/Commodities

- Palm plants. Spends most of its life and all stages within the tree.
- May also move short distances as an adult by flying.
- Can also be found in leaf litter around the base of palm or green waste pile.



Distribution. Map by cabi.org



Distribution

- Native to SE Asia.
- Distribution: Africa, Asia, Europe, Caribbean, Oceania.



Best Management Practices

- This species is not found in Hawaii. Prevention and early detection is required to prevent new incursions and establishment.
- Consider sourcing options and pest distribution when purchasing plants.
- BOLO: Be on the lookout! Carefully inspect palms for symptoms:
- Look for bore holes and crown dieback.
 - Feeding debris (frass) and thick white fluid may ooze from entry holes.
 - Gnawing sounds can be heard within a tree when large numbers of larvae are feeding.
- Report any suspect pests to www.643pest.org.



Selected References:

- <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2012/12/Red-palm-weevil-alert-2010-MASTER.pdf>
- <http://download.ceris.purdue.edu/file/3062>

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