

The Pest

- A lethal pest of coconut and 30 other plant species
- Infest 5-20 years old, when the trunk tissues are still soft and succulent

Nature of Damage

- Mated female deposits eggs by scooping small holes on wounds on trunk or fronds
- After hatching, larva bores deeply into the trunk and spends its entire life cycle inside
- Larvae and adults continuously chewed on the inside of the trunk
- The feeding can reach the growing point and kill the palm
- Infestation that started on the base of trunk can result to toppling and death of palms

Life Cycle of Asiatic Palm Weevil



Detection of Infestation

- Infestation is not visible outside since the pest dwells, feeds and breeds inside the trunk
- Presence of frass or chewed coconut wood oozing out of holes
- Presence of holes and tunnels on the base of the trunk
- Audible gnawing or nibbling sounds coming out of the holes

Management Options

1. Curative treatment-Drill, Pour, Plug Method

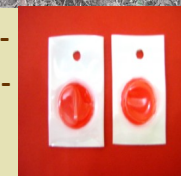
- ♦ Determine entry point and extent of the feeding by tapping on the trunk
- ♦ Drill two holes slanting downwards, about 6cm deep, 30 cm apart, above the point where approximately the pests are burrowing
- ♦ Prepare the recommended insecticide solution (for beetles) or use botanical biocide (tubli extract 70%)
- ♦ Pour the solution into the holes, taking care that there is no spillage
- ♦ Temporarily cover the holes with wooden plugs
- ♦ After 3 or 4 days, inspect if the gnawing/nibbling sounds are still audible, repeat the treatment.

♦ If no sounds were heard, cover holes tightly with wooden plugs and apply coal tar on the cover.

♦ If the active feeding is right below the pith, insecticide is poured directly onto the crown

2. Pheromone trapping

Commercial palm weevil lures is used at a rate of one trap for every 1-2 ha. Lure is placed in store bought or fabricated pail that have small windows and rough outside surface. Trapping is enhanced with the addition of food baits.



3. Farm Sanitation

Removal of all dead infested palms and extermination of all stages of the pest.

4. Preventive chemical treatments

Palms located around the infested palms are sprayed with chemicals at the base of trunk or on new holes to ward off possible entry of the pest. Avoid wounding the trunk as this attracts the weevil.

5. Implementing quarantine measures

Thorough inspection of planting materials and plant parts to avoid infestation.

6. Biological control

One predator and one entomopathogen were found to attack the weevils. Five to ten adult earwigs (*Chelisoches morio*) can be released to an infested palm.



Studies are on-going to determine the virulent strain of a white fungus which later will be mass produced.



Asiatic palm weevils collected in the Philippines (Cebu, Agusan, Davao) exhibited different pronotal markings but were found to be the same species based on molecular profile studies (Abad *et.al.*, 2014).



For more information, write or call:

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