

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Larva: Luigi Barraco Wikicommons #200712061000426 Adult: Katja Schulze Flickr

Common Name: Red palm weevil

Scientific Name: *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Curculionidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1.0-2.5 mm	White, cylindrical, laid on tree near trunk
Larva/Nymph	1mm-7cm	Grub with yellowish body, brown head capsule
Adult	2-5 cm	Reddish brown large weevil with variable dark markings. Can appear black.
Pupa (if applicable)	2-5 cm	Pupates on tree in 'cocoon' of palm fibers

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Larva: Chewing (wood borer) Adult: Chewing

Host/s: Major economic pest of coconut palm, date palm, sago palm, and oil palm. Feeds on 18 species of palm and 1 species of cycad (sago palm). (Abraham et al 1998) (CDFA 2015).

Description of Agricultural Importance (larvae and adults): Highly invasive species across tropical and subtropical areas. Larvae are pests on several palm species of economic importance. Larvae tunnel through trees and feed on crowns and emerging fronds. By the time damage is noted most trees are dying. (Abraham et al 1998) (CDFA 2015). In Kuwait *R. ferrugineus* is a pest on date palm.

In Southeast Asia grubs are a food source and considered a delicacy. (Hopkins 2004)

References:

Abraham, V.A., Al-Shuaibi. Mahmood, J.R., Faleiro, R.A. Abozuhairah and P.S.P.V. Vidyasargar. 1998. An integrated approach for the management of red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* Oliv. - A key pest of date palm in the Middle East. *Sultan Qaboos University Journal of Scientific Research, Agricultural Science*, 3: 77-83.

Red Palm Weevil. (1/2015). <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/rpw> Retrieved 12 January 2017

Hopkins, J. (5/2004). *Extreme Cuisine: The Weird and Wonderful Foods That People Eat*. Tuttle Publishing. pp. 210–. [ISBN 978-1-4629-0472-3](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9781462904723).

Ron Hirzel

Rhyncophorus ferrugineus