





Technical Bulletin for: Date Fruit Stalk Borer

Oryctes elegans (Prell) • Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae • ORYELE



DISTRIBUTION	Widely distributed throughout the Middle East including Iraq, Qatar, Oman, Egypt, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Libya.
HOSTS	Date palm
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT MOTH	Shiny reddish-brown in color, about 28-36mm long.
LARVAE	Mature larvae are creamy white with brown heads and 55-65mm in length.
EGGS	Creamy white, oval and about 2.6mm long.
LIFE HISTORY	Egg laying begins in May, and eggs are laid on both living and dead tissues of the palm; the borers pass the winter as larvae that pupate and emerge in early spring. Larvae are usually present inside the stem of dying or recently killed palms. Adult borers mine the surface of leaf rachises and of fruit stalks.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	4-Methyloctanoic acid on a paper coaster. Field life: four (4) weeks. USE with crushed palm core. Refresh/change palm core weekly.	
TRAP TO USE	Panel Trap or Bucket Trap. Hang traps as high as possible (5 m and up)	
MONITORING STRATEGY	In smaller fields, use one trap every 1 to 1 ½ acre. A minimum of two traps should also be used for fields of uneven topography. For larger fields (10 acres or greater) use 1-2 traps per five acres. Traps should be placed at approximately the same height as the crop. Traps should be checked weekly or more frequently, depending on pest population. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROLS	Field sanitation and cultural practices are one of the important means to prevent infestation by the weevil. Clean the crown of palms periodically to prevent decaying of organic debris in leaf axils. Avoid cuts and injuries.	

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