

PEST: Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros* (L.))

BASIC PROFILE: CRB is a pest of several palm tree species, including coconut and date palms, as well as bananas and sugarcane. It was first found in the U.S. in January 2014 in Hawaii. Adults are large: ~1.6 – 2.2” (40-55 mm) long, dark brown/black and resemble large “June bugs” with a horn on the head. Adult CRB bore into palm tree crowns causing damage and delayed fruiting in older trees and may kill young trees. Eggs are laid in decaying wood or vegetation where larvae develop, feeding for 3-8 months before pupating, then emerging as adults to feed on host plants. Larvae may reach 2.5 – 4” (60-105 mm) in length and have a reddish head and white grub-like body.

LDAF ACTIVITY: CRB probably entered Hawaii as a hitchhiker and additional spread can occur via man-assisted movement. USDA and Hawaii continue to monitor CRB presence and restrictions may help prevent movement and spread. A pheromone trap is available that can attract adult CRB. LDAF will be on the lookout for CRB when conducting routine nursery grower and nursery stock dealer inspections. Visual inspection is difficult because adult feeding damage may be hidden in the tree crown but V-shaped palm frond damage in older trees is characteristic of this beetle pest.

