

**PEST:** South American Palm Weevil (*Rhynchophorus palmarum*)

**BASIC PROFILE:** SAPW is a very serious pest of palm tree species, particularly coconut, sago and date palms, as well as sugarcane and other tropical crops. To date, it has been found in California and Texas. Adults are large: ~1 - 1.3 inch (25 - 33 mm) long, dull black in color and are active morning and evening. Female SAPW create holes in the crown area of palms where they lay their eggs. Larvae hatch and tunnel vertically through the tree, causing major damage. Larvae are reddish brown with a brown head and can be up to 2 inches (50 mm) long. Infested palms show progressive foliage yellowing. Emerging leaves die and flowers rot. Trees may have a foul odor and can die in months with multiple infestations. SAPW also can vector a nematode pathogenic to palm hosts.

**LDAF ACTIVITY:** Most SAPW movement is expected to be man-assisted via infested plant material. Federal and state survey activities are ongoing but next steps have not yet been determined. Restrictions may be forthcoming to prevent movement in infested palms. LDAF may conduct surveys for SAPW in the future. Visual inspection is difficult and involves palm frond removal and examination for damage or insects. A pheromone trap is available that can attract both male and female adult SAPW. Trap placement would be in high-risk areas (with palms) or based on follow-up shipments of host material entering the state from high-risk areas.

