

RPW-Lure™ for Management of Red Palm Weevil



The Red Palm Weevil (RPW), *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* is a destructive pest of Coconut, Oil and other palms. The adult females lay eggs in small holes scooped out by it in soft parts of young coconut palms and in injured parts of larger trees, often in feeding injuries caused by the Rhinoceros Beetle. The larvae (grubs) tunnel into the trunk and feed on internal tissues. A tree may have more than 50 grubs feeding inside, as a result of which it becomes hollow, topples and dies.

Since the symptoms of the pest infestation appear late and the grubs are well protected within the trunk, chemical control of this pest is ineffective. Mass trapping with aggregation pheromone, which attracts both females and males, has been found to be the most reliable and cost effective measure for managing this pest.

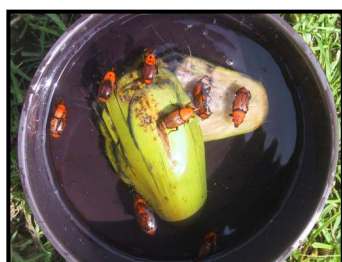
Pest Control (India) Pvt Ltd has indigenously synthesized the aggregation pheromone and produced lures. **RPW-Lure™** was found to be effective in trapping adults for more than 6 months under field conditions. PCI has also designed a collapsible bucket trap **Coco-Bucket** specifically for mass trapping coconut weevils and beetles.



Coco-Bucket is to be installed about 5 feet from the ground level, preferably from poles driven into the ground or any tree other than coconut, in the vicinity of the coconut plantation. Installation should be done in such a way that the surface of the trap not having entry hole is in contact with the trunk. The trap is readied for use by pouring 2 liters of water along with coconut shavings as food bait and half tea spoon of detergent as wetting agent to kill the trapped adults. **RPW-Lure™** is to be suspended from the undersurface of the lid of the **Coco-Bucket** with the help of the hook provided for this purpose.



The weevils attracted by the **RPW-Lure™** alight on the roughened outer surface of the **Coco-Trap**, enter the trap through any of the three entry holes, fall into the water and drown. **RPW-Lure™** was found to catch more females, particularly young adults, compared to males, thus preventing population build up of the pest. The bucket must be topped up with water once a week. The trap must be emptied, cleaned and fresh bait, water and detergent provided at fortnightly intervals. One trap is recommended for stands up to 1 acre.



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