

Sri Lanka Weevil (*Myloccerus undatus*)

Introduced: 2000 (Broward County);
Native to Sri Lanka.

Current Infestation (as of May 2006):
Broward, Collier, Hendry, Lee, Martin,
Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinel-
las, Polk, Sarasota, and St. Lucie Coun-
ties.

Description/Biology: The life cycle of
this weevil under laboratory conditions is
less than 2 months. Adults lay their eggs
in the soil. Larvae are small, creamy
white, and legless.

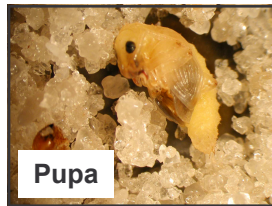


Eggs



Larva

The larvae are root feeders and are very
difficult to detect. It is unknown what
types of roots they prefer to feed on.
The larvae pupate
in the soil and are
also difficult to
detect.



Pupa

Adults are about 1/4 inch long (6 mm),
whitish-gray,
and are
commonly
found on
foliage of their
host plants.



Adults of his insect resemble a native
weevil, *Artipus floridanus* (little leaf
notcher).

Sri Lanka
weevil



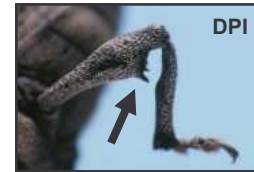
DPI



DPI

Little leaf
notcher

The Sri Lanka weevil
has a pronounced
spur on its legs
(femur) and has a
slightly yellow head.



DPI

Seasonality: Adult feeding is most
noticeable when plants are producing
new foliage. The Sri Lanka weevil is
particularly abundant in northern Miami-
Dade and southern Broward County.

Hosts: The adults feed on a wide range
of host plants. In Florida host records
include at least 68 tropical fruit trees,
palms, ornamental plants, upland cotton,
and citrus. In south Florida, several
tropical fruit trees such as lychee and
mango trees are particular favorites.

Importance: This pest is becoming an
increasingly more important pest due to
the damage it causes and that it has
been found on plants that have been
shipped to other states.

Damage: Larvae feed on the roots of
plants but the level of damage they cause
is unknown. Until more information about
where exactly the larvae are feeding and

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the types of plant roots they are feeding on, controlling the pest at this stage is not advised.

Adults can cause severe feeding damage to the foliage. Damage can range from notching on the leaf margins in an irregular pattern to a much more extensive feeding along the leaf veins. Many times this damage is cosmetic and the plant recovers. Small plants and young trees may need protection.



Management:

In the spring when new leaves are flushing out start inspecting for this insect and its characteristic leaf notching. Be aware that other types of insect pests can cause similar damage.

Homeowner - There are no pesticides registered for homeowner use for this pest on dooryard fruit trees. Older trees can tolerate the feeding damage. Younger trees can be protected by covering the tree canopy in fiberglass window screening to prevent the adults from feeding on the leaves.

If necessary, severe infestations on ornamental trees can be controlled by using insecticides which include carbaryl (Sevin), acephate (Orthene) or a pyrethroid labeled for leaf-feeding insects. Always follow label instructions.

Weevils can also be removed from ornamental or fruit trees in your yard by holding an open, inverted umbrella under a branch and shaking it vigorously to knock the weevils into the umbrella. The weevils can then be dumped into a bucket of soapy water.

Professional and Grower - Laboratory and field tests indicate that adult weevils can be controlled with foliar applications of bifenthrin (Talstar), acephate (i.e. Orthene) or carbaryl (Sevin). Other types of pyrethroids will likely provide sufficient control. No natural enemies have been identified, although some adult weevils have died from naturally occurring fungal diseases. The use of entomopathogenic nematodes may offer control of larvae, however, until more information can be gathered on the location and feeding habits of the larvae, it is not suggested.

Websites:

<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/weevil-pest-alert.htm>

http://cphst.aphis.usda.gov/npag/docs/Myloccerus_undatus_datasheet.pdf

<http://www.pestalert.org/viewArchPestAlert.cfm?rid=51>

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