

THE RED PALM WEEVIL (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*)

- Order: Coleoptera
- Family: Curculionidae
- Scientific name: *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier 1790)
- Common Name: Red palm weevil or Asian palm weevil.
- It attacks a great number of PALM species, but in the Mediterranean zone it affects primarily the Canary palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) and to a lesser extent, the date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*).
- Origin: Southeast Asia.

State	Size	Characteristics
Adult Beetle	2 to 5 cm	- The weevil is reddish in colour with a long prominent curved snout like a beak. - The thorax has a few dark spots and the elytra that protect the wings are of the same reddish colour with black striae.
Egg	1 - 2,5 mm	- Long and oval shape. Shiny white.
Larva (Grup)	Up to 5-6 cm	- It has no legs. - It is yellowish-brown in colour with a brownish-red head.
Pupa	4-6 cm	- It grows in a cocoon made from palm fibres.

BIOLOGY:

The life cycle is about 4 months. All stages (egg, larva, pupa and adult) are spent inside the palm tree and the life cycle cannot be completed elsewhere. The adults remain in the same palm while there is food. Otherwise, they abandon the tree taking flight to colonize other palms, preferably those that are damaged either by accident or pruning.

SYMPTOMS AND DAMAGE:

The first symptom is the asymmetry of the crown. First, the crown wilts, and lower leaves follow, due to damage to vascular tissue. By the time these external symptoms can be observed, the damage is usually already sufficient to kill the tree.



Damage caused by the red palm weevil



Red palm weevil,
Rhynchophorus ferrugineus (Olivier, 1790)

!!! ATTENTION !!!

**Two dangerous
PLAGUES FOR PALM
TREES**

Caterpillar auger of palm trees,
Paysandisia archon (Burmeister 1880)



CONSELL INSULAR
DE MENORCA

DEPARTAMENT D'ECONOMIA,
MEDI AMBIENT I CAÇA

PALM BORER (*Paysandisia archon*, Burmeister 1880)

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Castniidae

Scientific name: *Paysandisia archon*

Common Name: Palm borer

Affects: ONLY PALM TREES, mainly the Mediterranean dwarf palm (*Chamaerops humilis*) and Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) as well as the Washingtonia fan palms (*Washingtonia spp.*) and the Trachycarpus windmill palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*).

Origin: South America.



State	Size	Characteristics	Biology
Adult Moth	8-10 cm	Fore-wings: dark brown Hind-wings: orange, with a black band with white spots.	- They emerge during the period from May to November. - They fly by day with high temperatures and humidity. - The moth lives from 2 to 4 weeks and during this period the female lays eggs in the crown of the palm, near the growing point.
Egg	5 mm	It is fusiform and white, resembling a grain of rice.	- They are found at the base of the crown, among the fibres, 1 or 2 cm from the surface. - Hatch in 14 to 21 days.
Larva Caterpillar	Up to 9 cm	Cylindrical and cream colour. Three pairs of legs.	- When they are born they enter the palm tunnelling galleries measuring up to 1.5 m. - They spend the whole of the winter in this state. If the caterpillar is from the spring or early summer, it completes its cycle in one year, emerging as an adult the following spring. If the caterpillar is from late summer, it does not complete its cycle by the following spring and spends another year inside the palm to complete development.
Pupa	10 cm	It grows in a cocoon made from palm fibres.	- Before pupation, the caterpillar tunnels a hole in the trunk, from where the adult moth will emerge.

DAMAGE SYMPTOMS:

Only the caterpillar causes damage. The galleries that it tunnels destroy the vascular system of the palm trees.

They prefer to feed on the tender parts of the palm.

The galleries are usually in the area around the eye, but the palm can survive for years. Although a severe attack can kill the palm tree. If the eye of the palm is destroyed, the palm tree cannot sprout new leaves and dies.

The most common symptoms are:

- Holes in the leaves caused by larvae feeding from within the trunk.
- Exit holes in the trunk. Galleries are deep and usually exceed 1 cm in diameter.
- Presence of droppings and fibres forming a sticky paste that hardens over time.
- Remains of chrysalis, often suspended from the very hole.



DAMAGE

SITUATION OF PLAGUES IN MENORCA

PAYSANDISIA

It was officially detected in December 2006 in the area of Ciutadella. It was later detected in Binisafuller with another smaller focus in Lluçmaçanes.

Currently, the distribution of the Paysandisia is as shown below:



RED WEEVIL

Menorca is free of the red palm weevil!

Menorca is one of the few areas of the Mediterranean where there isn't red weevil.

!!!!IMPORTANT!!!!

It is mandatory to inform the Island Council of Menorca of the introduction of any palm trees onto the island of Menorca in writing.

Monitor and periodically inspect the palms.

These are two very dangerous plagues for palm trees. If you suspect the presence of these insects, contact to the Island Council of Menorca.

If you are in a region with Paysandisia ask for treatment.

PRUNING:

Only prune palms in the months of December, January, and February. Do not prune palm trees from May to November, to avoid sap flow. Adults of red weevil are strongly attracted by new sap.

Prune only dry or old palm leaves. Do not perform heavy or excessive pruning.

Do not plane or shave the stipes or trunks.

Edifici "Sa Granja"	Edifici "Sa Roqueta"
971 35 63 17	971 38 38 60
Ctra. des Grau, km 0,5	C/ Bijuters, 36
Maó	Ciutadella