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## OIL PLANTS

Olive

Coco-nut and Oil-palm

Sesame

Castor

Ground-nuts



# Olive

(*Olea europaea* L.)

**Most important pests: 549, 557, 558, 560, 561, 562**

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**Trees stunted, some parts chlorotic. Roots with brown lesions and elongated thickenings. (Damage occurs only after several years of cultivation.)**

root

*Tylenchulus semipenetrans* Cobb.

*Citrus root nematode.*

NEMATODA

542

465

see page 257 (Citrus)

*Distribution:* all olive tree growing countries, especially in the Mediterranean region

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**Growth checked, especially among saplings. Chlorosis. Roots with necrotic patches or dark lesions. (Damage occurs usually only after several years of cultivation.)**

543

3, 53, 103, 404  
772

*Pratylenchus coffeae* Z.

*Coffee nematode.*

NEMATODA

see page 63 (Coffee)

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**Partial dieback (twigs and branches).**

branches

*Hylobius perforatus* Roel.

COLEOPTERA; *Curculionidae*

Robust weevil, dark-grey to brown, about 15 mm long, which mines in the cambium.

544

*Distribution:* Japan

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**Signs of partial dieback (twigs and branches). Bore-holes, about 1.5 mm in diameter, become visible.**

*Hylesinus toranio* Bern.

COLEOPTERA; *Scolytidae*

545

Small, oval and convex beetle, about 3 mm long. It is dark in colour with yellow hairs on its elytra. The female mines into branches and twigs and there lays its eggs. The bore-holes run horizontally, while the larvae bore indiscriminately deep into the sapwood.

*Distribution:* Southern Europe, North Africa

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branches

**Leaf-shedding and dieback of some branches, in which small circular holes become visible. Yield considerably reduced.**

*Phloeotribus oleae* F.

*Fleotribo.*

COLEOPTERA; *Scolytidae*

546

Small, blackish-brown, round beetle, about 2 mm long, its back clothed with grey hairs. The beetle mines in branches and trunks. It oviposits in June/July into the branches. The larvae bore tunnels which are filled with frass and run at right angles to those of adults. Several (3) generations.

*Distribution:* Mediterranean region (Africa)

**Dieback of branches, which show large bore-holes filled with frass. Masses of frass also found on the ground.**

*Zeuzera pyrina* L.

*Wood leopard moth.*

LEPIDOPTERA; *Cossidae*

547

Moth with dirty-white wings, flecked with steel blue to black, expanding to 40-50 mm. The eggs are inserted in clusters in cracks of the bark. The caterpillars are yellowish-red, with black head, prothorax and shield. They tunnel into trunks and branches, evacuating reddish-brown to yellow excrement through the bore-holes.

*Distribution:* Europe

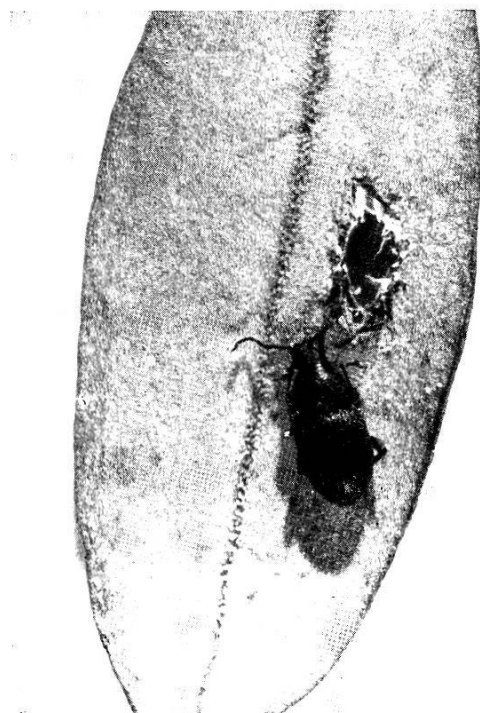
shoots

**Leaves and shoots heavily attacked. Shoots often with deep lesions.**

*Otiorhynchus cribricollis* Gyll.

COLEOPTERA; *Curculionidae*

548



Dark-brown, hairless weevil, 7-8 mm long. The thorax is narrower than the elytra. The legs are red and yellow.

*Distribution:* Southern Europe, North Africa



**Development of leaves and fruits disturbed. Shoots and leaves wither and fade. Heavy infestation with sooty mould. Presence of conspicuous scales.**

shoots

*Saissetia oleae* Bern.  
Olive scale.

HOMOPTERA; *Lecaniidae*

549

Oval and convex, dark brown scale insect, 3 mm long, which lays its eggs (up to 1500) under its scale. Older insects are found on shoots and twigs, while the larvae live along the leaf veins. 2-3 generations a year.

*Distribution:* Africa, North, Central and South America

**Twigs, leaves and fruits covered with whitish-yellow to greyish scales, about 2 mm in size. Plant development considerably disturbed, leading to malformations.**

*Selenaspidus articulatus* Morg.  
West Indian red scale.

HOMOPTERA; *Diaspididae*

550

536

see page 291 (Citrus)

*Distribution:* widespread throughout the Tropics and Subtropics.

**Shoots and leaves heavily attacked.**

*Mylabris oleae* Chev.

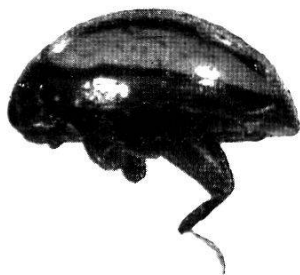
COLEOPTERA; *Meloidae*

551

Black beetle, about 25 mm long, its elytra banded with red.

*Distribution:* North Africa

leaves

**Linear mines along the leaf margin.***Argopistes oleae* Bryant.COLEOPTERA; *Chrysomelidae*

552

Convex, oval beetle, about 5 mm long, dark metallic with light bands. When disturbed it leaps off. The eggs are deposited in hollows on the underside of the leaves. The larvae mine in the leaves but individuals can move from one leaf to another. Egg to adult life cycle: 6-8 weeks.

*Distribution:* Africa (South)

**Leaf buds and young, unopened leaves spun together and injured. Shoots often attacked also.**

*Margaronia quadristigmalis* Guen.LEPIDOPTERA; *Pyralididae*

553

Light coloured moth with a dark costal margin on its front wings. The caterpillars are light green to greyish-white. Development cycle of one generation 6 weeks. Several generations a year.

*Distribution:* South America (Peru)

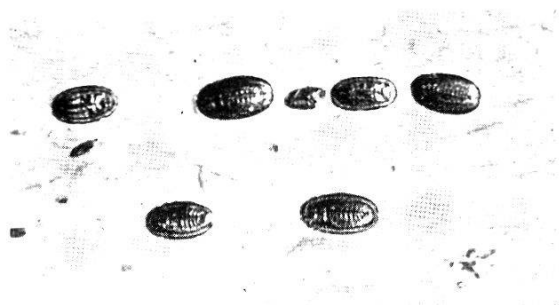
**Leaves heavily attacked. Trees denuded of leaves.**

*Acherontia atropos* L.*Sphinx* moth.LEPIDOPTERA; *Sphingidae*

554

Large, robust moth, with a wing span of up to 120 mm. Its front wings are dark brown, marked with light brown, while the hind wings are ochrous, crossed by two black bands. The thorax also is dark brown with a design like a death's head of light colour. The abdomen has yellow and brown crossbands. The caterpillars are hairless, lemon-coloured with blue stripes along the sides and provided with a strong, reddish-brown tubercular horn dorsally near the caudal end. When full grown, the caterpillars may reach 100 mm in length. Pupation takes place in the soil. Emergence in June/August. The pest also attacks egg-plants.

*Distribution:* Europe, Africa, Madagascar, South Asia



Leaves brittle, slightly folded over, the lower surface beset with small, oval, black scales. Heavy infestation with sooty mould.

leaves

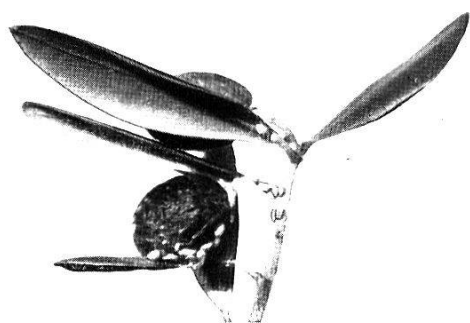
*Aleurolobus olivinus* Silv.  
Olive white fly.

HOMOPTERA: *Aleyrodidae*

Small, frail insects, about 1.5 mm long. The body and wings are sprinkled with a white waxy powder. The dorsum of the pupae is black, the margin fringed with wax (cf. Citrus: *Aleurotrachelus citri*). The subelliptical eggs are attached by a short pedicel. New laid they are straw-coloured, turning brown later on. One generation a year.

555

*Distribution:* Italy, Africa



Leaf stalks and underside of leaves infested with colonies of white, fluffy bodies. Heavy infestation with sooty mould. Growth disturbed; often flowers and pedicels also attacked.

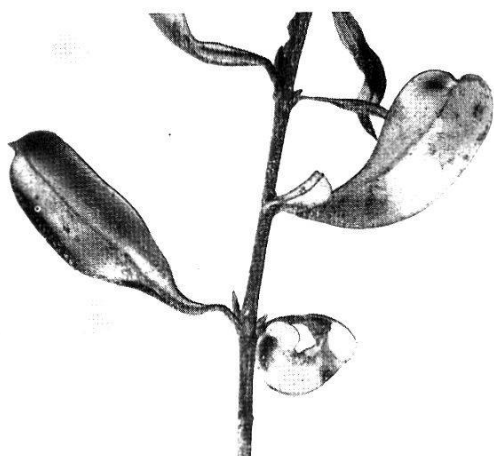
*Spilococcus simulator* James.

556

HOMOPTERA; *Pseudococcidae*

Oval mealybug, 2-3 mm long, which is covered with white wax. The colour of its body is orange to ochrous. Several generations.

*Distribution:* Africa



Buds deformed and failing to open. Leaves misshapen.

*Liothrips oleae* Costa  
Olive thrips.

THYSANOPTERA; *Tubulifera*

557

Light to dark brown thrips. 1.5-2 mm long, which lays its eggs on the twigs. The hatching larvae invade the leaves and buds, where they suck the plant juice. Three generations each season.

*Distribution:* Mediterranean region, Africa

buds



**Flower buds and stalks discoloured and seriously dwarfed. Intense formation of sooty mould.**

*Euphyllura olivina* Costa  
Olive psyllid.

HOMOPTERA; *Psyllidae*

558

Grey to light brown Psyllid, about 2 mm long, which places its eggs in the terminal shoots (in Spring). 3-4 generations.

*Distribution:* Mediterranean region

**Leaves turn yellow and fall. Buds wither. Leaves covered with sticky substance.**

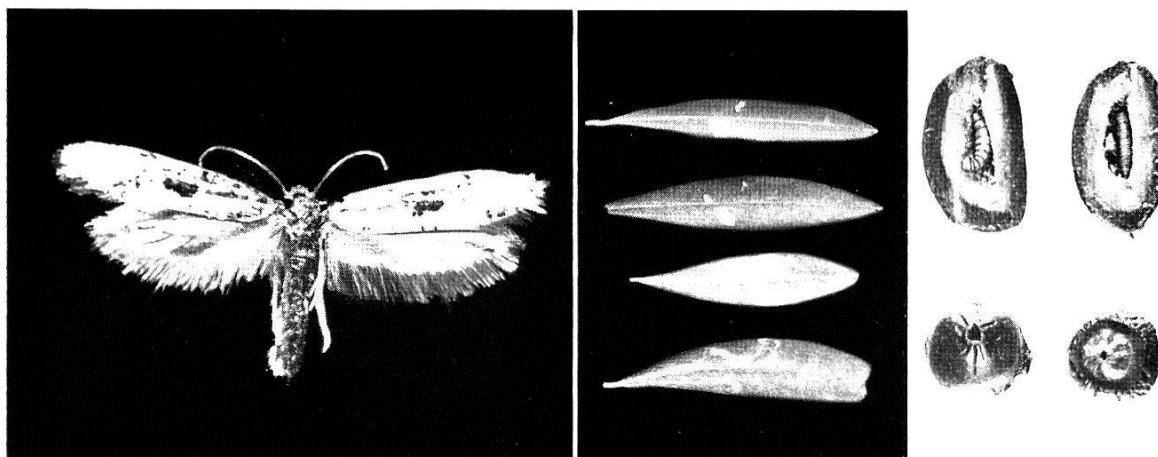
*Teleonemia australis* Dist.  
Olive bug.

HETEROPTERA; *Tingidae*

559

Small, slender, light greyish-brown plant bug, about 3 mm long, with 3 thin, pale stripes along the prothorax. The venation of the wings is reticulate. The last antennal segment is black, the other segments as well as the legs are light brown. The eggs are laid in batches on the underside of the leaves. The nymphs are gregarious.

*Distribution:* South Africa, Rhodesia, Nyasaland



fruits

**Autumn and winter:** leaves with blotch-mines and tunnels.

**May:** Flower buds gnawed and covered with webs and excrement. Presence of caterpillars.

**July/August:** Fruits slightly stained and partly shrivelled, falling off.

*Prays oleae (oleellus) F.*

LEPIDOPTERA; *Hyponomeutidae*

Small moth, about 5 mm long when its wings are folded. The front wings are speckled grey and brown, fringed, while the hindwings are light grey. The caterpillars are small, creamy-white with a dark head capsule; when full grown, they are dusky with two olive-green stripes on the back.

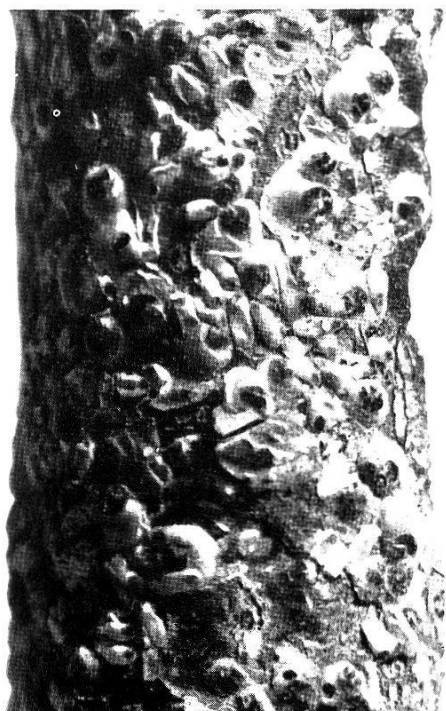
First generation: October/November. Leaf mining.

Second generation: April/May. Injury to flowers. Larvae feed on flower buds.

Third generation: June/July. Larvae penetrate into the fruits, feeding on the pulp. Very small bore-holes.

*Distribution:* Mediterranean region, South Africa

560



**Fruits mottled and deformed. Scales on fruits and shoots.**

*Parlatoria oleae Colv.*

*Olive scale.*

HOMOPTERA; *Diaspididae*

561

Greyish-brown, fairly convex, pear-shaped scale insects having 2 generations.

*Distribution:* Mediterranean region, Europe, India, Africa

fruits



**Fruits fall off before ripening; they are mottled and hollowed out by white maggots. Injured fruits yield oil of poor quality.**

562

*Dacus oleae* Gmelin

DIPTERA; *Trypetidae*

Small fly, about 5 mm long, of chestnut-brown to yellow colour. The female is provided with a well developed ovipositor with which it lays its eggs singly (up to 1000) in the young fruit. The white, footless maggot feeds on fruit pulp. Development period of one generation: about 4 weeks, 3-4 generations occurring each year. The larvae of the last generation (October) hibernate as pupae underground.

*Distribution:* Mediterranean region

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# Coco-nut and Oil-palm

(*Cocos nucifera* L. and *Elaeis guineensis* Jacq.)

Most important pests: 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 575, 576, 590, 595, 597, 604, 605

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Nuts fail to ripen and fall off. Leaves chlorotic. Section through trunk base reveals red peripheral stains (red ring disease).

trunk

*Aphelenchoides cocophilus* Cobb.

NEMATODA

563

Slender, endoparasitic worm, about 1 mm long, which attacks the roots and trunk of coconut palms.

*Distribution:* Africa, Antilles, South America

---



Palms break immediately above the ground while roots remain intact. Trunk heavily tunnelled in rupture zone. Palms still erect show dark stains around bore-holes at the trunk base. Exudation of gum marks tunnel entries. Tissue of trunk shows stained zones along the tunnels. General symptoms: growth of palms impaired; leaves stained yellow, fruits dwarfed.

564

*Melittomma insulare* Fairm.

COLEOPTERA; *Lymexylonidae*

Dark brown, slender beetle, 10-15 mm long, its head provided with large eyes and comb-like antennae, 4-5 mm long. The female is furnished with an ovipositor up to 5 mm in length. The eggs are laid at the trunk base. When full grown the larvae are about 20 mm by 3 mm and creamy-white. The first segment forms a shield, covering part of the head. The last abdominal segment is dark brown, round and concave, the posterior end bearing 18 pits and its edge being jagged. The larvae eat into the soft tissue of the trunk.

*Distribution:* Seychelles, Madagascar

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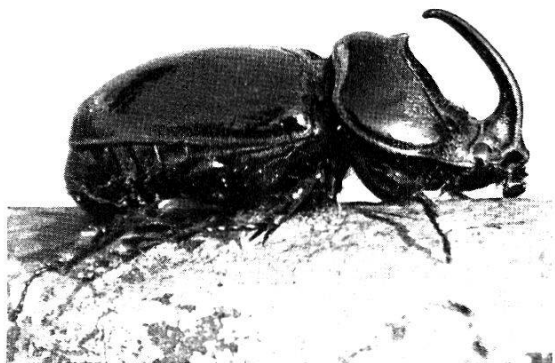


trunk

**Leaves drooping along the trunk. Nuts fall off. Inner leaves dead, while outer ones are still green.**

*Oryctes boas* F.  
*Rhinoceros beetle or black beetle.*

COLEOPTERA; *Scarabaeidae*



565

Shining dark brown rhinoceros beetle, 25-30 mm long (like *Oryctes rhinoceros*), which attacks both coconut and oil palms. Its life history is similar to that of *O. rhinoceros*. The female is apt to oviposit in dung. Development period of one generation: about 9 months.

*Distribution:* Africa

**Flowers fade. Leaf stems broken. Leaves drooping or "dead hearts". Outer leaves often left uninjured. Fruits drop.**

*Oryctes rhinoceros* L.  
*Rhinoceros beetle or black beetle.*

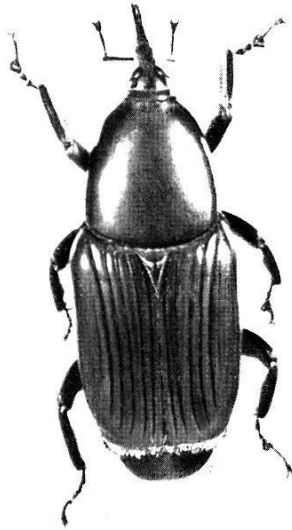
COLEOPTERA; *Scarabaeidae*



566

Dark to brilliant reddish-brown, convex beetle, 35-45 mm long. The head of the male bears a prominent horn (see No. 565). The adults fly at the beginning of the rainy season, circling round the palms at night. The beetle gnaws through the leaf base or at its lower edge, and penetrates into the trunk. It also attacks the leaf buds, the unfolded fronds thus showing triangular segments (see No. 568). Gnawing is done *only* for feeding and never for oviposition purposes. The bore holes proceed horizontally from the periphery towards the centre tissue, then vertically downwards into the vegetative cone. Fibers and chippings are often found on the ground, and each palm may be attacked by several beetles. The eggs are laid in old decayed trunks (rotten wood) or in cow dung. The larvae are large grubs, up to 70 mm long, with a transverse anal fold. Development cycle of one generation: 6-8 months. Bore holes of black beetles may also be used by red palm weevils (*Rhynchophorus*) when these attack palm trees.

*Distribution:* India, Indonesia, Philippine Islands



**Sudden dieback of palms, or breaking of the crown, caused by wind. (As a rule there are no easily detectable symptoms.)**

trunk

*Rhynchophorus  
ferrugineus* Ol.  
*Red palm weevil.*

COLEOPTERA;  
*Curculionidae*

567

Large, very robust, dark brown snout weevil, about 30 mm long. The female places its eggs in wounds along the trunk (also in bore-holes of *Oryctes*). The young larvae immediately bore into the trunk, making deep tunnels. Attacks on the lower parts of the trunk are not harmful, but those on the upper parts are dangerous, the vegetative cone being destroyed. The larvae reach up to 50 mm in size. They pupate in a cocoon under the bark. Often several larvae are found in one trunk. Development period of larvae: several months. The adults are on the wing during the rainy season.

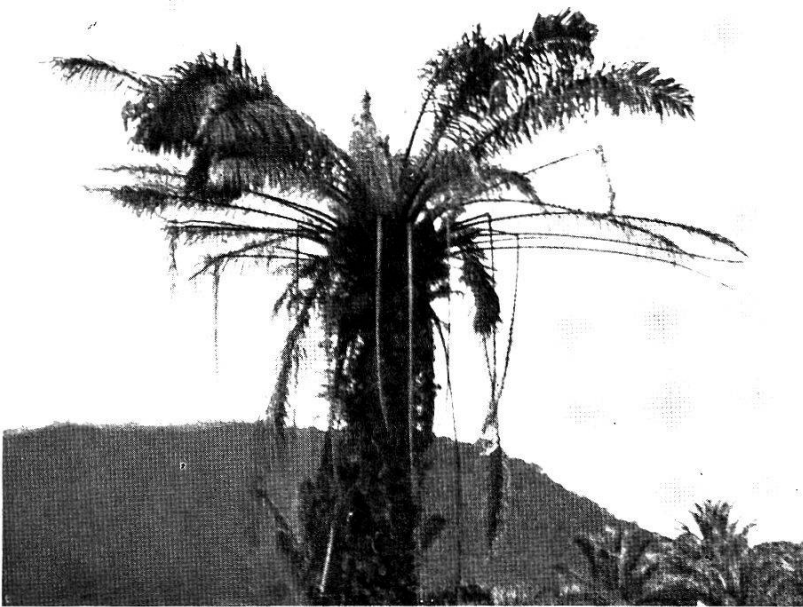
*Distribution:* Asia, Australia, Philippine Islands

**Fronds drooping, "dead heart".**

*Rhynchophorus  
phoenicis* F.  
*Palm weevil.*

COLEOPTERA;  
*Curculionidae*

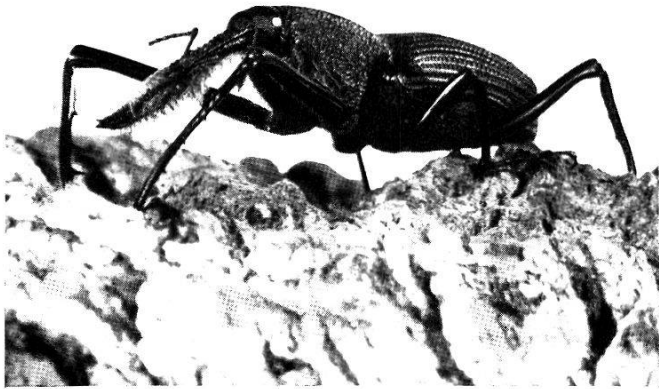
568



Large, robust weevil, about 30 mm long, with dark brown and reddish-brown markings (see No. 567). The eggs are laid on the bark or in the heart. The larvae bore into the trunk, sometimes also into the roots of young palms. They pupate in a cocoon made of plant fibres. Development from larva to adult: 5-6 months.

*Distribution:* Africa

trunk



Foliage turns yellow; palms become stunted and die or may be broken by the wind. Zone of rupture severely mined and occupied by white, footless larvae.

*Rhina barbirostris* L.

Bearded weevil.

COLEOPTERA;

Curculionidae

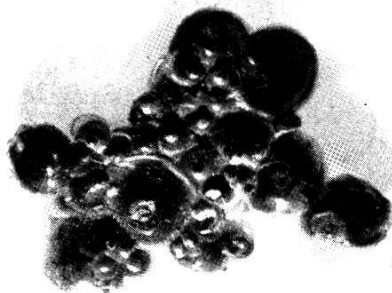
569

Dark brown, almost black weevil, 30-40 mm long excluding the snout; the latter measures 10-12 mm and is clothed with reddish-brown hairs. The forelegs are strikingly long. The female chooses unhealthy palms in the trunk of which it bores small holes, about 2 mm in diameter, where it deposits the eggs. The larvae are white, yellow-headed and decorated with dark dots on the segments. They emerge after a few days and tunnel horizontally into the trunk, often several larvae attacking one trunk. Pupation takes place in the trunk, inside crate-like cocoons.

*Distribution:* the West Indies

570

533



Young fruits shrivel and fall. Trunks of young palms often densely beset with dark scales, measuring about 2 mm. Plant development impaired.

*Chrysomphalus ficus*

Ashm.

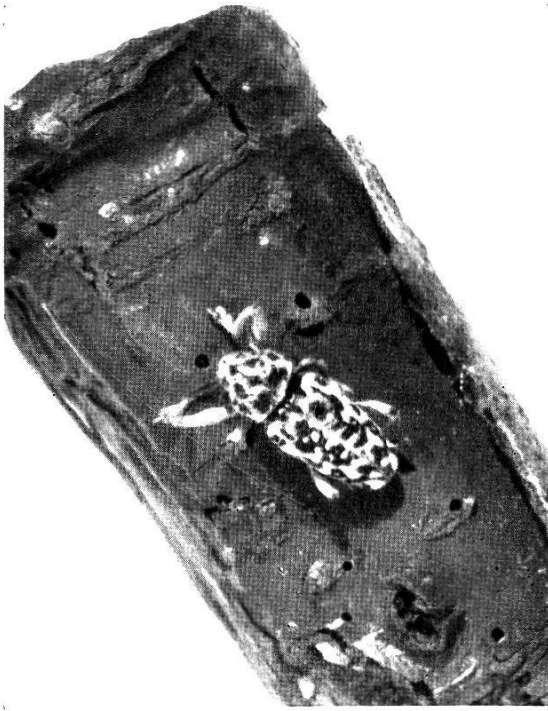
Florida red scale.

HOMOPTERA;

Diaspididae

see page 290 (Citrus)

*Distribution:* widespread



**Leaf stalks break, causing fronds to droop. Nut yield severely impaired.**

leaves

*Amerrhinus pantherinus* Ol.

COLEOPTERA; *Curculionidae*

571

Longish-oval, dark weevil, about 20 mm long. The upper surface of the body is marked with pale stripes. The legs are long and thin. The female places its eggs in the leaf stalks where the resulting larvae bore long tunnels.

*Distribution:* Brazil

**Leaves with yellow and brown mines, turning completely yellow and curling up.**

*Coelaenomenodera elacidis* Maul.

*Oil palm leaf miner.*

COLEOPTERA; *Chrysomelidae*



572

Dark metallic beetle, with fairly straight sides, about 6 mm long. The thorax is considerably smaller than the elytra, these latter have prominent longitudinal ribs. The eggs are fixed to the underside of the leaves, where the larvae hatch after about 4 weeks, mining into the leaves. Development period of one generation: 2-3 months.

*Distribution:* Africa

leaves

**Linear, necrotic brown stripes on freshly opened fronds, or partial dieback. Young palms die; older ones show a somewhat brownish crown.**

*Brontispa longissima* Gestro.  
*Coconut hispid.*

COLEOPTERA; *Chrysomelidae*

573



Slender beetle, 8-10 mm long. Its thorax, legs and costal portion of the elytra are reddish-yellow. The eggs are placed in the soft, unopened fronds. The larvae are creamy-white to white, bearing a lateral spiny protuberance on each segment and a pair of calliper-shaped processes at the tip of the abdomen. Both adults and larvae feed in the unopened fronds. Development period of one generation: about 6 weeks. Several generations.

*Distribution:* Solomon Islands

**Leaves turn yellow and wither, due to streaky mines caused by feeding.**

*Plesispa Reichei* Chap.

COLEOPTERA; *Chrysomelidae*

574



Small beetle, measuring 6-7 mm by 2 mm. The head and elytra are dark brown, the thorax and legs reddish-brown, the antennae dark. The female lays its eggs on the young leaves where the larvae eat streaks in the upper surface, leaving the lower epidermis intact. Several generations a year.

*Distribution:* Indonesia



**Leaves greyish-brown, withering. Fruit formation impaired.**

leaves

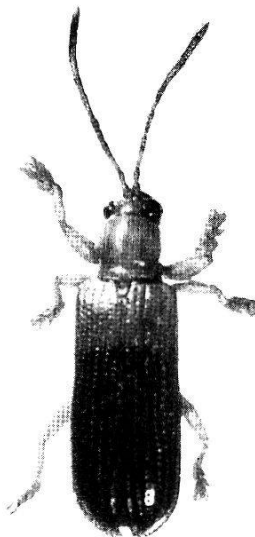
*Promecotheca Cumingi* Baly.  
*Coconut leaf miner.*

COLEOPTERA; *Chrysomelidae*

575

Oval, metallic beetle, about 8 mm long, which gnaws holes in the leaves, wherein it lays its eggs. The larvae penetrate into the leaves and pupate in the mines thus produced. Several generations.

*Distribution:* Borneo, Philippine Islands, Malacca



**Leaves with long and broad, reddish-brown mines. Plants considerably weakened when heavily attacked.**

*Promecotheca Reichei* Chap.  
*Coconut leaf miner.*

COLEOPTERA; *Chrysomelidae*

576

Beetle of various colours, 8 mm long. Head, thorax, antennae, legs and anterior portion of elytra are yellowish-red, while the remainder of the elytra is metallic blue. The eggs are deposited on younger leaves, where the resulting larvae feed, making linear mines. Several generations.

*Distribution:* Fiji-Islands, Hawaii, Tonga, Tahiti, Samoa

leaves **Leaflets devoured and withered. Injury proceeds from leaf base upwards.**

*Nephantis serinopa* Meyr.  
*Coconut caterpillar*  
 or *black-headed caterpillar*.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Cryptophasidae*

**577** Moth with a wing span of 20-25 mm. The forewings are pale brownish-grey with minute dots scattered here and there. The hindwings are pale greyish-brown, without any dots, but with a distinct seam along the inner margin. The body is also greyish-brown. The eggs are deposited on the leaves. The caterpillars feed on leaf tissue, stripping the leaves to the midrib. Pupation takes place on the palm. Development period: 5-6 weeks.

*Distribution:* Ceylon, Burma

**Underside of fronds with long, brown feeding marks. Heavy attacks cause silvery-grey to brown discolorations and curling up of leaves.**

*Homaledra sabalella* Chamb.  
*Palm leaf skeletonizer*.

**578** LEPIDOPTERA; *Momphidae*

Small moth with a wing span of about 25 mm, which lays its eggs on the leaves. The whitish caterpillars, occurring singly, feed on the lower surface of the leaves.

*Distribution:* the West Indies

**Underside of leaves streaked with feeding mines, 2 mm wide and of various length. Leaves wither. Presence of pupal cocoons.**

*Agonoxena argaula* Meyr.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Agonoxenidae*

**579** Small moth of peculiarly flat shape, pale yellow with darker lines. When at rest a silvery band shows along the back and a silvery spot on each wing near the tip. The wing span reaches up to 15 mm. The caterpillar is very slender, pale yellow to green; it lives in a fine web on the underside of the leaves where it destroys the lower epidermis and the parenchymatous tissue, leaving the upper epidermis intact.

*Distribution:* Fiji Islands



**Leaves with long, brown streaks, about 3-4 mm wide. Older caterpillars strip leaflets to midrib.**

*Parasa lepida* Cram.

*Bluestripped nettle grub.*

LEPIDOPTERA; *Limacodidae*

Moth with green forewings, edged with brown, while the hind wings are beige. They expand up to 35-40 mm. The eggs are fixed in batches on the underside of the leaves. The caterpillars are yellow to green, the back and sides of the body marked with blue stripes. The stinging hairs are arranged in tufts. The insects fly at the beginning of the rainy season.

*Distribution:* India, Ceylon, Indonesia

580

79, 439

**Leaves severely attacked.**

*Ploneta diducta* Snell.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Limacodidae*

Robust moth with a wing span of 20-25 mm. The forewings are dark brown with a pale crossband and small dots. The tip extends to a lobe. The hindwings are plain dark brown. The eggs are deposited on the leaves. The variegated caterpillars are armed with spines. Developmental cycle: 6-8 weeks.

*Distribution:* Indonesia

581



**Leaves heavily attacked.**

*Narosa conspersa* Walk.

*Small gelatine grub.*

LEPIDOPTERA; *Limacodidae*

Moth with yellowish-white forewings, spotted with reddish-brown, and pale yellow hind wings. The eggs are laid on the leaves. The caterpillars are naked, oval, light green; their back is humped. They pupate on the leaves in oval cocoons decorated with brown spots at the end. Development period: 8 weeks.

*Distribution:* South-East Asia

582



leaves **Young leaves with window-like feeding patches (upper epidermis intact). Young palms more exposed to damage than older ones.**

*Natada nararia* Moore

*Fringed nettle grub.*

LEPIDOPTERA; *Limacodidae*

583

126

Moth with reddish-brown forewings, dotted with black; wing span 25 mm. The eggs are laid on leaflets. The green to yellowish caterpillars feed on the underside of leaves. Several generations.

*Distribution:* India, Ceylon

**Leaves largely destroyed, often stripped bare.**

*Thosea asigna* v. *Eecke*.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Limacodidae*

584

Moth with a wing span of 30-40 mm. The forewings are brownish-red with a dark, pale-edged crossband and a small, dark dot. The hindwings are plain light brown. The pupae are dark brown, hard and globular, 1.5 mm in diameter. The eggs are placed by hundreds on the underside of the leaves. The caterpillars are provided with strong spines.

*Distribution:* Indonesia

**Leaves largely destroyed, often stripped bare.**

*Thosea sinensis* Walk.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Limacodidae*

585

318, 736

Slug caterpillar moth with a wing span of 40 mm. Both fore and hind wings are beige to brown, the former crossed with a thin, dark brown line. The eggs are laid on the leaves. The caterpillars are green to yellow, with a distinct line along the back, terminated at each end by green and red spines, 2 mm long. Development period of one generation: 10 weeks.

*Distribution:* India, Indonesia, China

**Leaves heavily attacked. Presence on the underside of leaves of thick, slug-like gelatinous grubs.**

*Chalcocelides albiguttata* Sn.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Limacodidae*

586

128

Moth with ochrous to light brown forewings, marked with a dark spot in the centre. They expand to about 40 mm. The eggs are fixed to the underside of the leaves, where the greenish, naked, slug-like caterpillars feed on leaf tissue. Pupation takes place in an egg-shaped or almost spherical cocoon on the leaves. Development period of one generation: about 3 months.

*Distribution:* India, Ceylon, Indonesia, Australia



**Leaves with long, thin, brown streaks, about 3 mm wide. Feathers turn yellow and brown and wither.**

leaves

*Levuana iridescens* Beth.-Bak.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Zygaenidae*

587

Small, bluish-red moth with long, comb-like antennae, which fixes its eggs in batches on the underside of the leaves. The caterpillars are slug-like and white; they bear a black line with tufts of short spines on each side. They feed from the underside of leaves, eating elongated stripes into the tissue and leaving the upper epidermis intact.

*Distribution:* Fiji Islands

**Leaves skeletonized or mined, which causes them to turn brown. Fruits ripen precociously and fall off. Heavy attack during the rainy season.**

*Artona catoxantha* Hamps.  
*Coconut leaf moth.*

LEPIDOPTERA; *Zygaenidae*

588

Moth with plain, dark brown fore- and hindwings, which expand to 10-15 mm. The eggs are placed on the underside of the leaves. The caterpillars have a broad, hirsute head. The body segments also are furnished with hair tufts, the last segment bearing long hairs directed backwards. The caterpillars create gallery mines in the leaves. The pest reaches peak numbers in April and August. Several generations a year.

*Distribution:* Indonesia, Philippine Islands, Malayan Peninsula

leaves

**Leaves of fronds turn yellow. Buds often destroyed.***Castnia licus* Drury*Gigant moth borer.*

589

LEPIDOPTERA; *Castniidae*

272

The caterpillars attack young coconut palms, eating the soft tissue of the developing fronds. *C. licus* attacks also bananas.

see page 173 (Sugar-cane)

**Freshly unfolded leaves with symmetrical feeding injuries. Older fronds break at the base, owing to deep, serpentine tunnels in the rupture zone. Oil palms, 2-5 years old, particularly liable to damage.**

*Pimelephila ghesquierei* Tams*Pyrale du palmier.*LEPIDOPTERA; *Pyralididae*

590

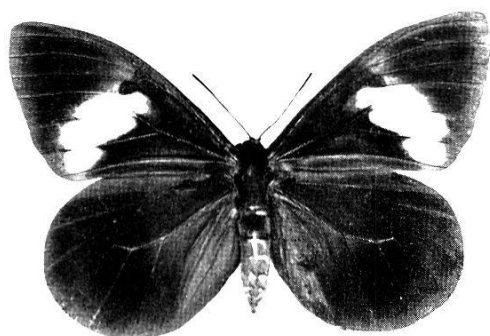
Moth with dark brown forewings, speckled with orange and beige, while the hind wings are pale olive-green and also speckled with beige. The wings expand to about 30 mm. The body is slender, greyish-brown with one dark brown segment. The eggs are laid in the unopened leaves. The caterpillars are dark at first, turning dirty white to yellow-red later on. They are about 20 mm long when full grown. The young caterpillars bore into the unopened leaves; when these unfold, symmetrical damage becomes visible. Older caterpillars migrate towards the base of fronds, where they tunnel deep galleries into the stalks. Gum exudation marks the bore-holes.

*Distribution:* Congo

**Leaves heavily attacked, often stripped bare. Presence on coconut palms of sac-like nests made of leaves spun together, up to 50 cm in size.**

*Brassolis sophorae* L.*Coconut caterpillar.*LEPIDOPTERA; *Nymphalidae*

591



Moth with dark brown forewings, a pale zone at the centre. The hind wings are also dark, having a broad, pale margin. Oviposition takes place at dusk, the eggs being placed in slimy heaps, up to 1500 per female, on the underside of the leaves. The hairless caterpillars are dark green to grey, marked with two lateral, thin, pale lines. They live in great numbers in nests and feed at night. The pupae cling to the leaves. Several generations. Outbreak only every 4-5 years.

*Distribution:* South America (Brazil)

**Leaves heavily attacked, trees often stripped bare. Fruit yield reduced.**

leaves

*Sexava coriacea* L.ORTHOPTERA; *Tettigoniidae*

Large, light green grasshopper. The venation of the wings is very marked, almost similar to leaf venation. The antennae are very long and thin. The eggs are laid in the ground. The hoppers climb on the palms where they feed on leaves. *Sexava coriacea* is a serious pest only when occurring in great masses.

592

*Distribution:* Indo-Malayan Isles, New Guinea.

**Leaf margin destroyed, young palms often stripped bare.***Aularches miliaris* L.*Spotted locust.*ORTHOPTERA; *Acridiidae*

593

Brownish-green locust, about 50 mm long. The elytra are brownish with lighter spots. The thorax has a median keel. The female oviposits in the earth. Total egg to adult development: 1 year.

*Distribution:* India, Ceylon, Indonesia

**Leaves heavily attacked, stripped to the midrib. Young plants particularly exposed to injury.***Tropidacris latreillei* Pt.*Grasshopper.*ORTHOPTERA; *Acridiidae*

594

Large, robust grasshopper, about 40 mm long. Its body is brown with lighter markings. The forewings are light brown while the hind wings are hyaline, with a dense row of dark dots along the inner margin. The eggs are laid in the ground. The hoppers are brownish-yellow and brown, their thorax bearing a distinctly projecting keel.

*Distribution:* Brazil

**Leaves stained with yellow patches. Sooty mould formation. Fruit yield impaired (especially of 6-8 year-old palms).***Aleurodicus destructor* Quaint*Coconut white fly.*HOMOPTERA; *Aleyrodidae*

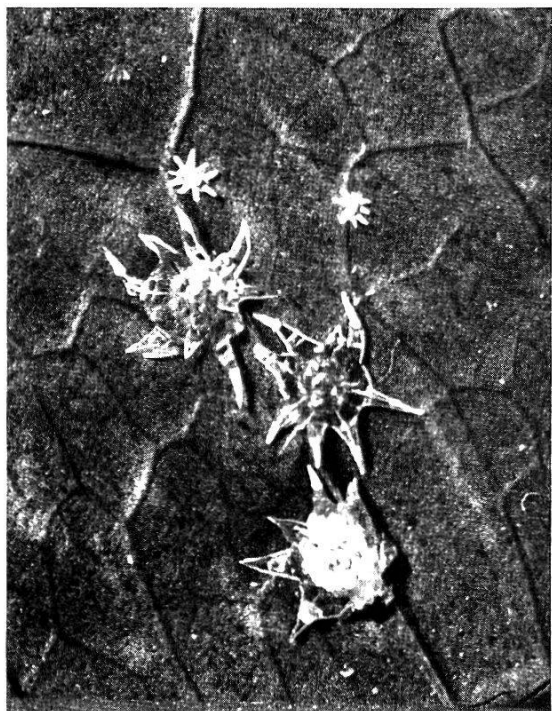
595

The underside of the leaves is covered with waxy material, which conceals small "white flies", 1.5 mm by about 1 mm. These have 6 pores on their back which ensure the wax secretion. The waxy filaments may be up to 10 mm long. The insect is particularly active during the dry season.

*Distribution:* Indonesia

leaves

596



**Fronds stained light yellow to brown, the stains eventually interlacing. Underside of leaves beset with star-like insects.**

*Vinsonia stellifera* Westw.  
Wax scale.

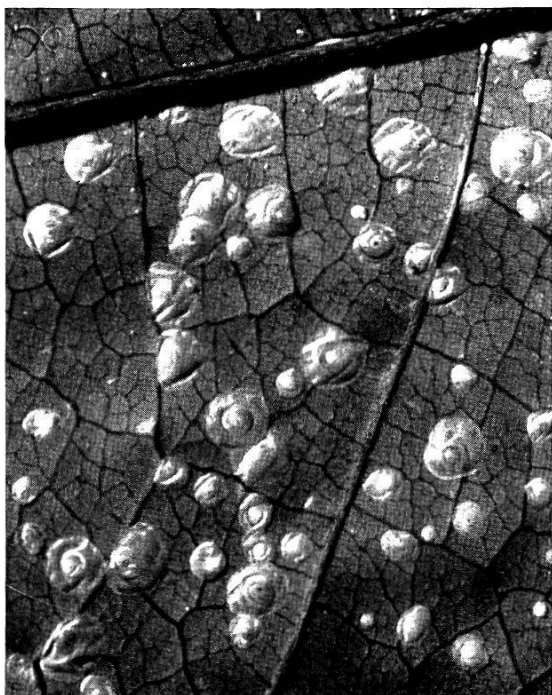
HOMOPTERA; *Lecaniidae*

Star-shaped insect, with oval, dark coloured body and 7 long, star-like, waxy filaments. The total size of the insect, including the filaments is 2-3 mm.

*Distribution:* East Africa, Seychelles, Zanzibar, India, South America

597

420



**Leaves turn yellow and brown, wither and fall. Underside of leaves beset with scales. Yellow and brown stains proceed from leaf base upwards, while tops of fronds are still green.**

*Aspidiotus destructor* Sign.  
Coconut scale.

HOMOPTERA; *Diaspididae*

Thousands of female scale insects on both sides of the leaves, small, round and flat, greyish-white or almost transparent and about 1.5 mm in diameter. They also infest the leaf stalks and fruits. Their sucking alters the chlorophyll, producing circular yellow zones round the punctures. With heavy infestation the puncture stains overlap. The pest disperses downwind. Several generations.

*Distribution:* Africa, India, Indonesia (practically wherever coconut palms are grown).



**Leaves with yellow and brownish-red spots, withering when heavily attacked. Lower surface infested with white, waxy scales.**

**Young fruits mottled and shrivelled, ripening precociously and falling off.**

*Diaspis boisduvalii* Sign.

HOMOPTERA; *Diaspididae*

leaves

598

23

Small, white sacs, about 1 mm long, with longitudinal ridges. The light brown exuviae are at the front end.

*Distribution:* Tropics and Subtropics



**Leaves stained yellow. Presence of scales on the underside of leaves.**

*Ischnaspis longirostris* Sign.

*Black thread scale.*

HOMOPTERA; *Diaspididae*

599

42

Dark-brown, elongated and narrow scales, slightly broader towards the posterior end. The females under the scales are yellowish, elongated and narrow.

*Distribution:* Africa, Seychelles, Indonesia, Central and South America

leaves



**Leaves stained yellow or reddish, the whole crown turning yellow when heavily attacked. Nut yield reduced.**

*Pinnaspis buxi* Bché.

HOMOPTERA; *Diaspididae*

600

Small, grey or brown scale insect, about 1.5 mm long. Its shape is obovate and pointed at one end.

*Distribution:* widespread throughout the Tropics, especially on the Seychelles

flower-  
buds

**Unopened flower spikes with small dark spots. Feeding injury inside the flower spikes.**

*Acritocera negligera* Butl.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Cossidae*

601

Moth, about 20 mm long, with brownish-red forewings, marked with light lines and light venation, while the hind wings are whitish to greyish, with a span of up to 50 mm. The adult moths are very swift fliers. They deposit their eggs at the leaf base. The caterpillars are white with yellow mandibles and thoracic shield; the anal segment is red-yellow, horny and pointed. They bore through the flower buds in the unopened spathes.

*Distribution:* Fiji Islands

nuts

**Young nuts (2-4 weeks old) drop off, showing often considerably large and deep gnawing wounds from feeding.**

*Diacalandra taitenisis* Gue.

COLEOPTERA; *Curculionidae*

602

Reddish-brown weevil, about 6 mm long, the elytra of which show dark markings. The eggs are placed in the trunk. The weevils attack the trunk, leaf base and especially young nuts. The pest is only of local importance and then only when occurring in great masses.

*Distribution:* Fiji Islands



**Stamens and stems destroyed and covered with webbing. Young fruits with bore-holes, falling off. Often presence of numerous caterpillars in one fruit.** nuts

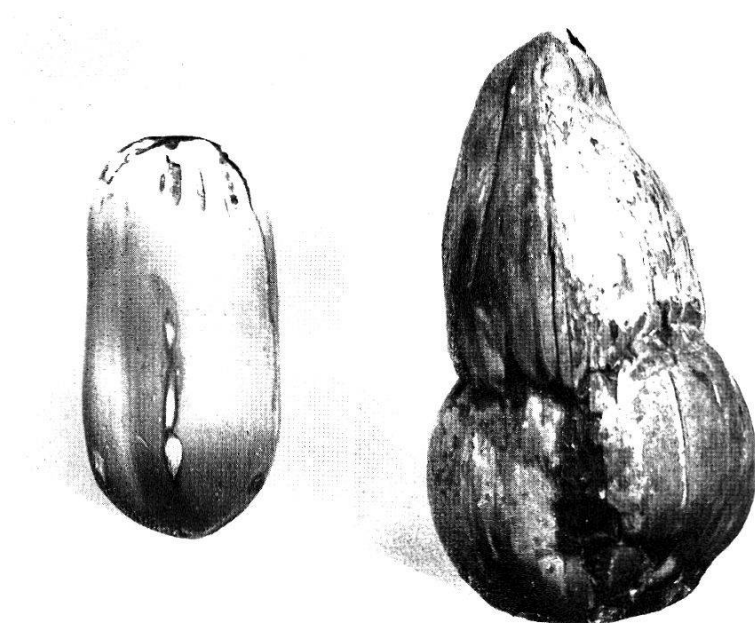
*Tirathaba rufivena* Walk.  
Greater coconut spike moth.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Pyrallidae*

Moth with brownish-yellow forewings and pale hindwings, expanding to 25 mm. The female possesses a distinct ovipositor with which it inserts the eggs into the male flowers. The caterpillars are dirty yellow to brownish. They attack the flower spikes, stems, stamens and young fruits, and pupate at the base of the flower spikes. Development period: 5-6 weeks. Several generations.

603

*Distribution:* Ceylon, from Indonesia to Queensland



**Young nuts drop off. Dark, long, necrotic lesions near the fruit base or in the middle of the fruit. Older nuts surrounded by dark, deep scars of decayed tissue. Strangulation impairs fruit development. Yield reduction up to 50%. Flowers also attacked, badly developed (lesions). Often formation of abnormally dense foliage while fruit production is poor.**

604

*Pseudotheraptus wayi* Brown  
Coreid bug.

HETEROPTERA; *Coreidae*

Slender, reddish-brown plant bug, 12-14 mm long when full grown. The membrane is dark brown. The body is densely and distinctly spotted above and yellowish-brown beneath. The antennae, legs and eyes are also yellowish-brown, the latter protuberant. Both adults and nymphs suck on flowers, young and half-ripe fruits. The pest is very lively, infesting the crown of the palms. Several generations.

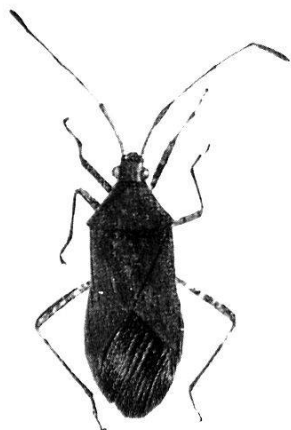
*Distribution:* East Africa (Zanzibar)



nuts

605

464



**Young nuts drop off. Dark, long, necrotic lesions near the fruit base or in the middle of the fruit. Older nuts surrounded by dark, deep scars of decayed tissue. Strangulation impairs fruit development. Yield reduction up to 50%. Flowers also attacked, badly developed (lesions). Often formation of abnormally dense foliage while fruit production is poor.**

*Amblypelta lutescens* Dist.

HETEROPTERA; Coreidae

Brownish-yellow to greyish-brown plant bug, 12-15 mm long, resembling *Pseudotheraptus wayi*.

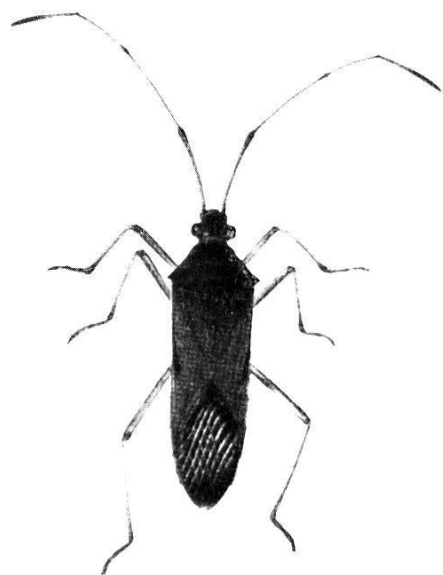
*Distribution:* Queensland

**Young fruits drop off. Deep necrotic lesions all around the pericarp. Fruits distinctly strangulated in their middle.**

*Amblypelta cocophaga* China  
Coreid bug.

HETEROPTERA; Coreidae

606



Very active and lively plant bug, 10-15 mm long, with a brownish-yellow head. The prothorax is brownish-yellow in front and brown behind. The shield and wings are reddish-brown; the costal margin of the latter is pale and transparent. The legs and the ventral side of the body are yellowish-brown, while the dorsal side of the abdomen is brown. The antennae are frail, the antennal segments of the nymphs distinctly broad and flattened. Development period of one generation: 6-7 weeks.

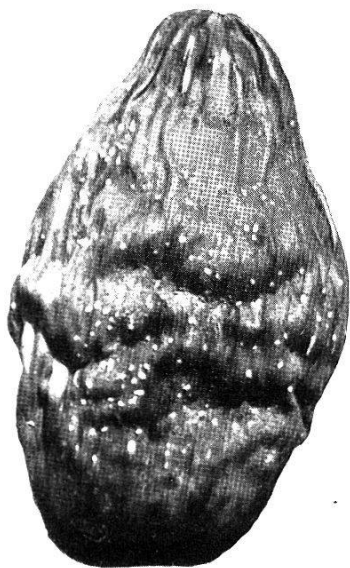
*Distribution:* Solomon and Fiji Islands

**Well developed, ripening fruits shriv-  
elled and infested with white, flat scales.**

nuts

*Phenacaspis cockerelli* Cooley

HOMOPTERA; *Diaspididae*



607

448

Shell-shaped, flat, white scales, about 3 mm long. The light and dark brown exuviae are at the pointed end (cf. also No. 448).

*Distribution:* East and South Africa, Madagascar, Seychelles, China, Japan, Hawaii, Australia

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## Sesame

(*Sesamum indicum* L.)

**Most important pests: 614, 616, 617, 619, 620, 624**

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**Plants turn yellow and die. Roots destroyed. Presence of white grubs.**

root

*Holotrichia Helleri* Brsk.

COLEOPTERA; *Scarabaeidae*

608

Rusty-red cockchafer, 15-20 mm in size, which deposits its eggs in the ground. One generation a year.

*Distribution:* Indonesia

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**Tips of shoots deformed. Numerous necrotic patches.**

shoots

*Agonoscelis pubescens* Thunb.  
*Cluster bug.*

HETEROPTERA; *Pentatomidae*



609

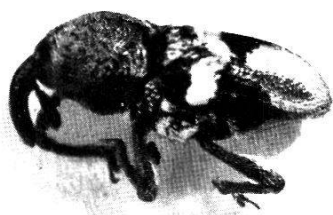
Greyish-brown plant bug, 8-10 mm long, with a pale, V-shaped design on the wings. The brown and red abdominal segments extend laterally beyond the elytra. The legs are light brown. Total development period of one generation: 4-5 weeks. *A. pubescens* attacks also sorghum, cotton and beans.

*Distribution:* Africa

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stem

**All parts of plants withered when heavily attacked. Stems or pods with dark spots and often slight thickenings.**



*Baris helleri* Hartm.

COLEOPTERA; *Curculionidae*

610

Small, dark brown weevil, about 3 mm in size, its elytra marked with small, inconspicuous white dots. The eggs are inserted into the stems or pods, where the resultant larvae mine.

*Distribution:* Africa (East)

leaves

**Leaves of young plants riddled with holes. Plant growth stunted when heavily attacked.**

*Aphthona bimaculata* Jac.

COLEOPTERA; *Chrysomelidae*

611

Small, oval, shiny metallic beetle with two spots on the elytra. The eggs are laid at the plant base. The beetles feed on foliage, leaping off when disturbed. Several generations.

*Distribution:* East Africa, Nyasaland

**Young leaves heavily attacked.**

*Oothea mutabilis* Sahlb.

*Leaf beetle.*

612

COLEOPTERA; *Chrysomelidae*

Oval, fairly convex beetle, about 8 mm long, yellowish-red with black legs and head. The peak of attack occurs in March/April.

*Distribution:* East Africa

**Leaves partially destroyed, sometimes stripped to the midrib. Fruits also heavily attacked outside, often stem injured as well.**

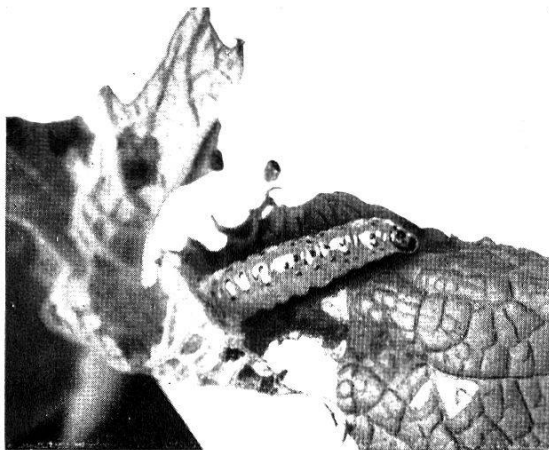
*Epilachna chrysomelina* F.

COLEOPTERA; *Coccinellidae*

613

Oval, reddish to brownish-yellow beetle, 6-8 mm long. The elytra are marked with 12 coarse, black dots. The eggs are placed in clusters on the underside of the leaves. The oval and fairly convex larvae are furnished with pinnate processes all over the body. Both larvae and adults feed on foliage. Development period of one generation: 5-6 weeks. Several generations.

*Distribution:* Mediterranean countries, Africa



**Leaves and flower buds spun together and destroyed. Heaviest damage in March/April.**

leaves

*Maruca testulalis* Geyer  
Mung-moth.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Pyralididae*

614

331, 658

Small moth with brown forewings, flecked white and greyish-white hindwings. The eggs are laid on the leaves on which the hatching dark to greyish-green caterpillars feed, spinning them together. They often occur in vast numbers and emerge in March/May. Several generations.

*Distribution:* widespread in tropical countries

**Young plants stripped to stem and leaf veins. Plants often completely denuded.**

*Hieroglyphus banian* F.

ORTHOPTERA; *Acridiidae*

see page 163 (Rice)

615

245



**Leaves glossy white, curled downwards.**

*Thrips* sp.  
*Thrips*.

THYSANOPTERA; *Terebrantia*

616

Slender, pale yellow to light brown thrips, about 2 mm long. Several generations.

*Distribution:* East Africa

leaves

617

711



**Leaves wrinkled, often deformed. Tips of shoots also deformed, bearing distinct swellings. Plant growth disturbed.**

*Cyrtopeltis tenuis* Reut.  
*Tobacco-Capsid.*

HETEROPTERA; *Miridae*

Frail, slender, brownish-yellow plant bug, 3 mm long, with black, protuberant eyes and yellowish antennal segments with a black base. The wings are marked with a black fleck in the centre of the margin. The legs are yellow. The eggs are laid on the underside of the leaves. Both nymphs and adults suck the plant sap. Development period of one generation: 5-6 weeks. Several generations a year. *C. tenuis* attacks also tobacco.

*Distribution:* Africa, India, Indonesia, Australia, Central America

618

812

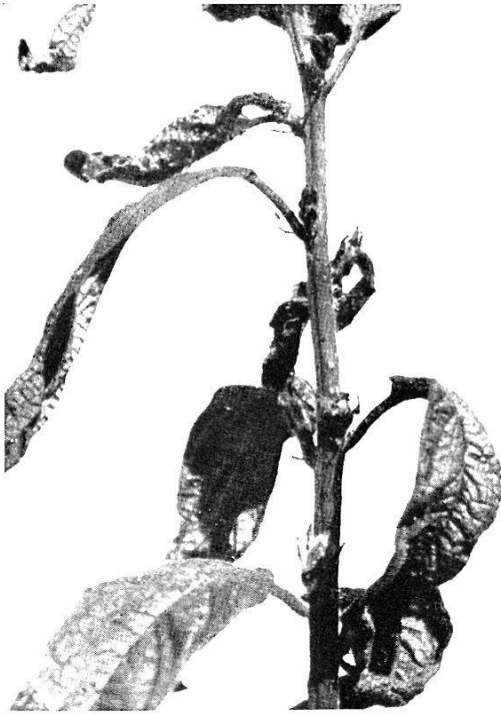


**Leaves mottled, drooping and slightly curled. Necrotic patches, drying up and falling off, thus causing perforation of leaves. Growth stunted.**

*Lygus vosseleri* Popp.  
*Plant bug.*

HETEROPTERA; *Miridae*

see page 411 (Cotton)



**Leaves strongly wrinkled and curled downwards. Shoots deformed. Growth and fruit formation severely impaired. Presence of dense colonies of lice on the plant (see No. 503).**

*Myzodes persicae* Sulz.

Green peach aphid.

HOMOPTERA; *Aphididae*

leaves

619

717, 728, 875

Light green or yellowish aphid, about 2 mm long, with indefinite stripes of darker colour on the abdomen. The siphuncles are relatively long. The forehead bears distinct humps. The antennae are as long as the body. The aphid is an important vector of virus diseases. Reproduction may occur parthenogenetically as well as bisexually. Many generations a year.

*Distribution:* cosmopolitan



**Leaves with white patches, spun together and destroyed. Young leaves, i.e. those near the tips of shoots are preferred. Capsules are also attacked, caterpillars being visible inside them.**

*Antigastra catalaunalis* Dup.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Pyralididae*

capsules

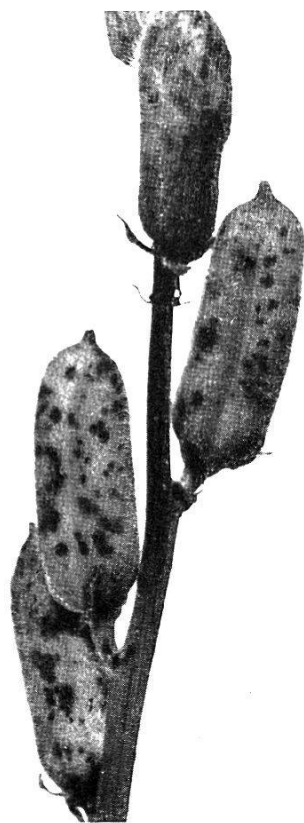
620

Moth with a wing span of 15-20 mm. The forewings are brownish-yellow with a reddish hue, decorated with indistinct zigzag lines. The apex tapers to a point. The hindwings are pale yellow, almost transparent. The eggs are laid on the shoots and leaves. The caterpillars are green to yellowish-green, speckled with black. Full grown they may be up to 15 mm long.

*Distribution:* Southern Europe, Africa, India, Indonesia, South and East Asia



capsules



**Pods chlorotic, showing dark sucking punctures and slight malformation. Development impaired.**

*Aspavia sp.*  
*Stink bug.*

HETEROPTERA; *Pentatomidae*

621

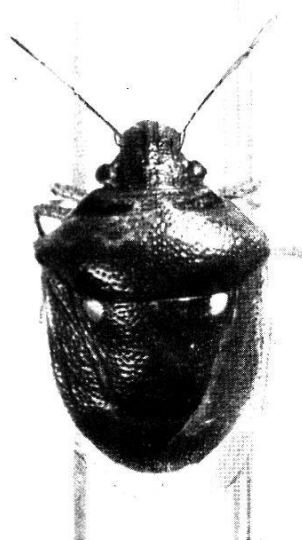
Plant bug, 7-8 mm by 4-6 mm in size, ochrous thickly and darkly punctate, with a black head. The pronotum is marked with a central longitudinal line. The fifth and sixth abdominal segments each bear a black spot.

*Distribution:* East Africa

**Young, recently formed capsules misshapen and stained yellow. Development severely impaired.**

*Eusarcoris ventralis* W.  
*Stink bug.*

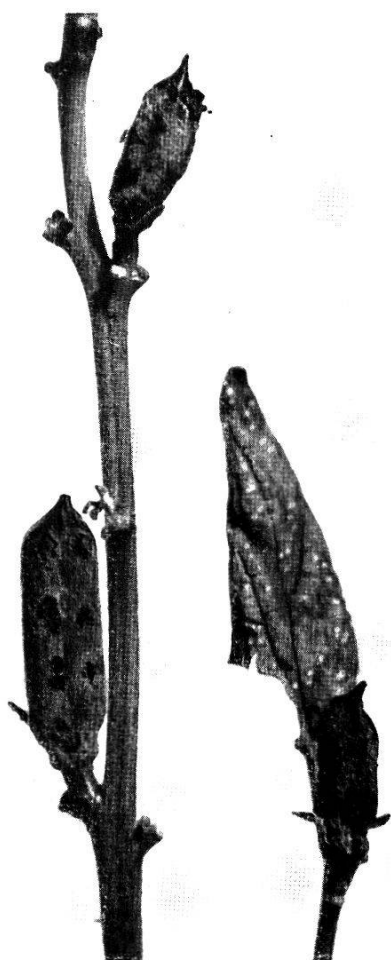
HETEROPTERA; *Pentatomidae*



622

Broad plant bug, 5-6 mm long, brownish to ochrous, with dark dots and two large, transverse spots. The legs and underside of the body are ochrous, darkly punctate, while the central disk of the abdomen is black. *E.ventralis* also attacks rice, the insect's sucking causes the ripening grains to turn black.

*Distribution:* India



**Capsules with dark spots, withering and falling off.**

**capsules**

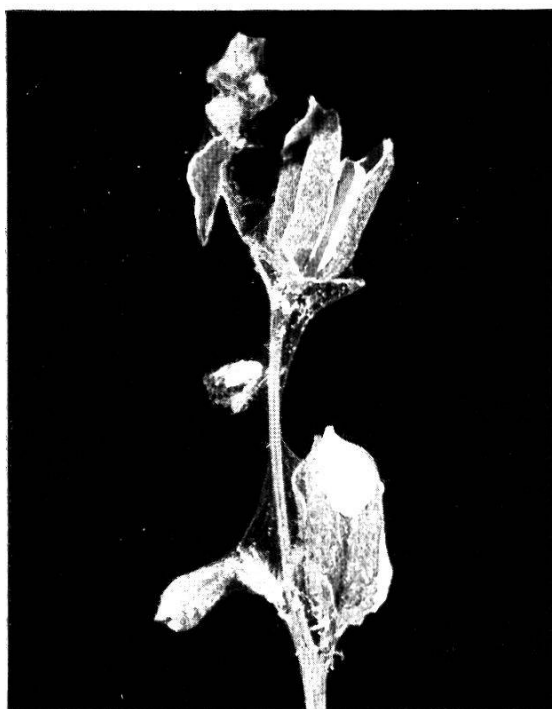
*Phricodus* sp.  
*Stink bug.*

HETEROPTERA; *Pentatomidae*

623

Broad and flat stink bug, 8-10 mm long, ochrous to reddish-brown, with dark, indistinct markings. The legs and antennae are yellowish-red. The peak of attack occurs in May/June when young bugs appear in great masses on shoots and young capsules.

*Distribution:* East Africa



**Leaves turn grey to greyish-brown, curl slightly downwards and become brittle, before they are shed. Pods dry out, remain underdeveloped or ripen precociously.**

*Tetranychus urticae* Koch  
*Common red spider.*

ACARINA; *Trombidiformes*

624

327, 351, 380  
637, 670, 769  
789, 820, 868  
874

see page 415 (Cotton)

*Distribution:* widespread



# Castor

(*Ricinus communis* L.)

**Most important pests: 628, 629, 631, 636, 637, 641**

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**Growth stunted, especially among young plants. Roots with dark lesions.**

root

*Radopholus similis* Cobb.

*Burrowing nematode.*

NEMATODA

625

2, 353, 382  
466, 731, 7

see page 38

*Distribution:* widespread throughout the Tropics and Subtropics

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**Leaves heavily attacked. (Contact with caterpillars causes severe skin irritation.)**

leaves

*Parasa vivida* Walk.

*Stinging caterpillar.*

LEPIDOPTERA; *Limacodidae*

626

29

Moth with light and dark green forewings, fringed with brown, while the hindwings are pale yellow. The caterpillars are shield-like, furnished at both ends with long, cone-shaped processes. The whole body is armed with poisonous hairs and spines (see Fig. 38). The pupa, spherical in shape, is found in the topsoil. Development period of one generation: 3-4 months.

*Distribution:* Africa, India, Ceylon

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**Leaves riddled with holes, flowers often completely devoured.**

*Taragama diplocyma* Hmps.

*Tent caterpillar moth.*

LEPIDOPTERA; *Lasiocampidae*

627

Robust, stout moth, with a wing span of 40-50 mm, light brown to beige in colour. The eggs are placed on the leaves and covered with a woolly extrusion. The caterpillars are densely clothed with dark brown hairs and black tufts of bristles.

*Distribution:* Africa

---

leaves



**Severe injury to leaves, plants often stripped bare.  
Young plants preferred.**

*Achaea janata* L.  
*Castor semi-looper.*

LEPIDOPTERA; *Noctuidae*

628

Moth with a wing span of 40-50 mm. Both fore- and hindwings are brownish-grey with dark zigzag lines and pale and dark brown spots. The eggs are fixed to the underside of the leaves. The hairless caterpillars are brownish-grey, with pale and dark lateral lines. The penultimate segment bears in addition two dark, erect dorsal tubercles. The caterpillars feed at night, hiding in day time in the topsoil.

*Distribution:* India, Ceylon

**Young plants severely attacked. Leaves and stems often completely destroyed.**

629

*Prodenia litura* F.  
*Cotton worm.*

LEPIDOPTERA; *Noctuidae*

132, 194, 321  
662, 703, 837  
867

see page 423 (Cotton)

**Leaves heavily attacked, often stripped to the midrib. The hairs of the caterpillars cause severe skin irritation (urticaria).**

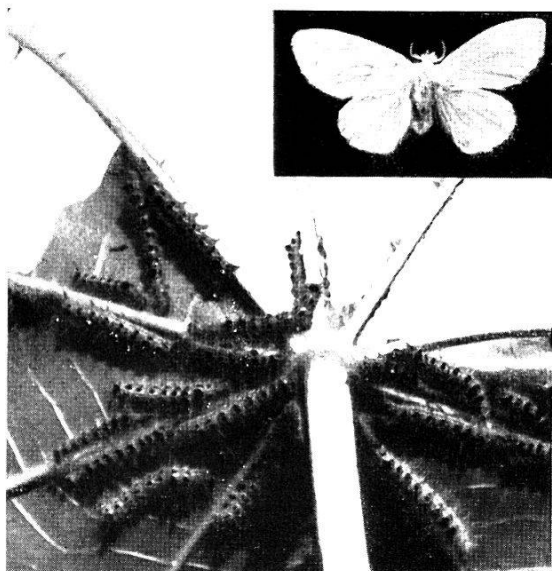
*Euproctis rubricosta* Fawc.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Lymantriidae*

630

White butterfly, densely clothed with scales. The wings expand to 25-30 mm. The egg clusters are covered with brown anal fluff and fixed to the underside of the leaves where the caterpillars hatch after a few days and feed gregariously. The larger caterpillars are densely hirsute and bear ochrous and black decorations; they devour the whole leaf tissue before pupating on or in the ground. Development period of one generation: 5-6 weeks. Peak in May/June. *E. rubricosta* attacks also cotton.

*Distribution:* Africa, Madagascar



**Leaves severely attacked, skeletonized. Presence of clusters of caterpillars, covered with webs.**

*Euproctis producta* Walk.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Lymantriidae*

leaves

631

Small, yellowish-white moth with a wing span of 30-35 mm. The female places its eggs on the leaves, covering them with a woolly extrusion. The caterpillars are reddish-brown, densely furnished with hairs which cause severe irritation of the human skin. The pest emerges during the rainy season.

*Distribution:* Africa



**Leaves heavily attacked, skeletonized.**

*Dasychira georgiana* Faw.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Lymantriidae*

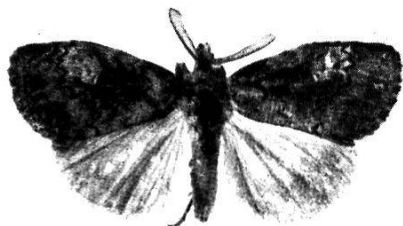
632

Robust moth, its body and legs densely clothed with hairs. The antennae are comb-like, the forewings are greyish-white with undulating grey lines. When resting, the wings of the moth are folded roof-like. The upper side of the abdomen is furnished with ochrous hairs. The caterpillars are also densely clothed with hairs and armed on the back with characteristic hair tufts which cause severe skin irritation. Development period of one generation: 4-5 weeks.

*Distribution:* East Africa

leaves

**Leaves heavily destroyed. Plants often stripped bare.**



*Dasychira inclusa* Walk.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Lymantriidae*

633

Moth with a wing span of 30 mm and comb-like antennae. The forewings are dark brown with ochrous spots. The caterpillars are densely clothed with hairs and bear 4 robust white bristles on their back. The head and abdomen are furnished on left and right with a hair tuft directed forward. The hairs cause severe skin irritation.

*Distribution:* Asia

---

**Leaves heavily attacked, skeletonized.**

*Orgyia mixta* Sn.  
*Tussock moth.*

LEPIDOPTERA; *Lymantriidae*

634

Small, robust, dark-coloured moth with a wing span of 30-40 mm. The egg-mass is covered with brownish-grey woolly extrusion. The caterpillars are densely furnished with ochrous hairs and black bristles on the back. Contact with them causes severe skin irritation.

*Distribution:* Africa

---

**Leaves with pale spots. Necrotic patches on leaf stalks. Leaf-shedding.**

*Ptyelus grossus* F.

635

HOMOPTERA; *Cercopidae*

Beige to brownish leafhopper, 15-18 mm long. The wings form a tent when at rest. The costal margin of the forewings is marked with 2 large, pale flecks. The hindwings are transparent with a few dark spots. The abdomen is dark, greenish at the base. The pest occurs mainly in January/February.

*Distribution:* East Africa

---



**Leaves mottled with small, white, usually conjoint spots. Heavy attacks cause the leaf margins to curl downwards.**

leaves

*Empoasca flavescens* F.  
Green fly.

HOMOPTERA; *Jassidae*

636

140

Frail, bluish-green leafhopper, about 3 mm long (see Fig. 241) which lives on the underside of the leaves.

*Distribution:* widespread in the Tropics and Subtropics

**Leaves stained greyish-white to reddish-brown, turning yellow. Leaf-shedding.**

*Tetranychus urticae* Koch  
Common red spider.

ACARINA; *Trombidiformes*

637

327, 351, 380  
624, 670, 769  
789, 820, 868  
874

see page 415 (Cotton)

*Distribution:* widespread

**Leaves partially wrinkled. Small young fruits greyish-green and withering.**

fruits

*Nezara viridula* L.  
Green plant bug.

HETEROPTERA; *Pentatomidae*

638

250, 312, 480  
691, 841

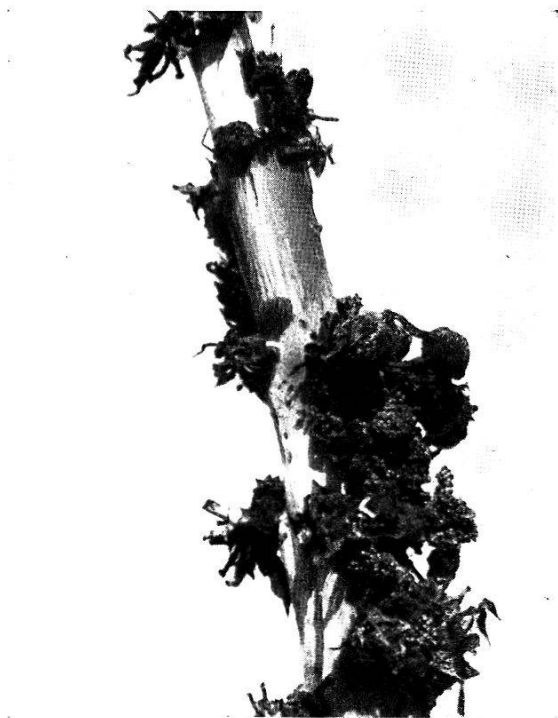
see page 363 (Tobacco)

*Distribution:* widespread



fruits

639



**Flowers and young fruits turn black and die.**

*Lygus sp.*  
*Plant bug.*

HOMOPTERA; *Miridae*

Fairly slender, greenish plant bug, 6-8 mm long. The antennae are thin, the head small with distinctly protuberant eyes. The legs are pale green and thin (see Fig. 44).

*Distribution:* East Africa

640

182, 876



**Shoots and fruits die.**

*Dichocrocis punctiferalis* Guen.  
*Peach moth.*

LEPIDOPTERA; *Pyralididae*

Small, inconspicuously dark coloured moth. The caterpillars are light to reddish-brown and have a dark head capsule. They attack the young fruits and the tips of the shoots.

*Distribution:* India, Burma, Ceylon, China, Japan, Australia



**Stalks of youngest leaves distorted, i.e. twisted. Leaves fail to develop. Fruits die.**

fruits

*Adelphocoris apicalis* Reut.

HETEROPTERA; *Miridae*

641

831

Elongate, oval, flattened plant bug, about 8 mm long, with light greyish-brown to dark reddish-brown wings. The membrane is hyaline. The head and prothorax are dark brown. The antennae and the first and second pairs of legs are light brown, while the hindlegs are dark brown. Several generations. The nymphs are green with dark wing rudiments. They suck on leaf stalks and young fruits. Peak in May. *A. apicalis* attacks also cotton plants.

*Distribution:* East, Central and West Africa

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## Ground-nuts (Pea-nuts)

(*Arachis hypogaea* L.)

**Most important pests: 645, 649, 657, 660, 662, 667, 669, 670, 676**

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**Roots of young plants bearing many small knots. Growth and fruit formation stunted.**

*Meloidogyne* sp.  
Root-knot nematode.

NEMATODA

root  
and nuts

642

see page 37

*Distribution:* widespread

---



**Roots and fruits with dark patches.**

*Pratylenchus* sp.

NEMATODA

643

Endoparasitic nematodes, 0.5-0.8 mm long, which live in the roots and in the pods.

*Distribution:* Africa

---



**Roots and fruits destroyed. Presence of grubs.**

*Schizonycha africana* Cast.

COLEOPTERA; *Scarabaeidae*

644

Dark brown cockchafer which is on the wing in February/March, and lays its eggs in the ground, where the larvae (grubs) feed on roots. One generation a year.

*Distribution:* Africa

---

root  
and nuts

645

170, 307, 747  
796



**Plants stained yellow,  
defoliated or dead.  
Roots destroyed.**

*Hodotermes mos-  
sambicus* Hag.  
Termite.

ISOPTERA;  
*Hodotermitidae*

see page 383 (Chillies)

646



**Plants turn yellow and die. Leaves and  
roots destroyed.**

*Graphognathus leucoloma* Buch.  
White fringed weevil.

COLEOPTERA; *Curculionidae*

Large, dark grey weevils, 10-12 mm long, with white lateral bands. The eggs are laid at the base of the plant. Damage is done to the roots by the larvae and the foliage is destroyed by the feeding of the adults. They reproduce parthenogenetically.

*Distribution:* South Africa, North and South America, Australia

**Partial dieback of plants. Presence of coleopterous larvae in the stem.**

stem

*Sphenoptera perotetti* Fe.COLEOPTERA; *Buprestidae*

Beetle of metallic colouring, about 10-12 mm long (see No. 646), which deposits its eggs in the base of the plant or on the ground. The larvae mine into the stem and penetrate into the roots.

647

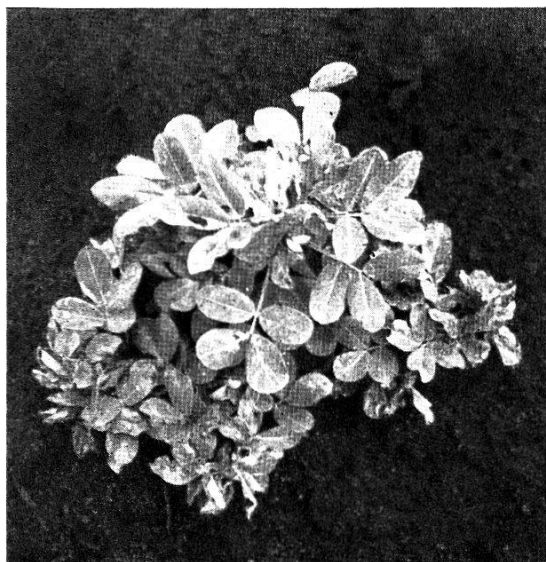
*Distribution:* India**Partial chlorosis. Stem with deep feeding scars and dark stains.***Aleides arcuatus* Bohem.

Weevil.

COLEOPTERA; *Curculionidae*

648

Small, dark, convex weevil, fairly oval in shape, 3-4 mm long, which oviposits in the base of the stem. The larvae feed in the stem.

*Distribution:* East Africa**Stems stained and deformed. Leaves dwarfed and chlorotic.***Creontiades pallidus* Ramb.

Shedder bug.

HETEROPTERA; *Miridae*

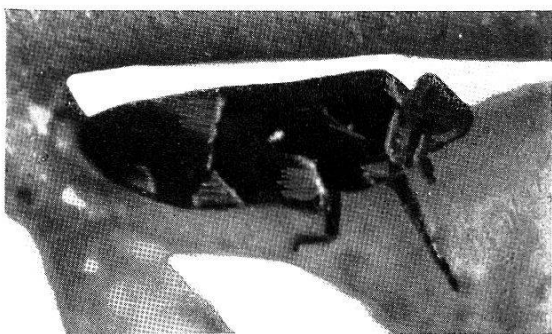
649

797

Thin and slender, brownish-yellow plant bug, 8 mm long, with dark markings on the inner margin of the forewing. The legs and antennae are long and thin, the latter dark yellow. The eyes are protuberant. The female lays its eggs in the shoots. Egg to adult life cycle about 5 weeks.

*Distribution:* West Africa, India

stem

**Plants turn yellow and die.**

*Hilda patruelis* Stål.  
Leaf hopper.

HOMOPTERA; *Tettigometridae*

650

Dark red and brown leafhopper, 4 mm long. The head, seen from above, appears triangular. The wings form a tent. The antennae, placed behind the eyes, have the appearance of small horns. The first third of the costal margin of the forewings has a white, comma-shaped fleck. The eggs are laid on the stem. Both nymphs and adults are protected by earth tubes built by ants at the stem base. Several generations a year.

*Distribution:* Africa

shoots

**Plants chlorotic, growth dwarfed. Base of shoots infested with oval scale insects, about 3 mm long, covered with fine white dust.**

*Dysmicoccus brevipes* Ckll.  
*Pineapple mealybug.*

651

HOMOPTERA; *Pseudococcidae*

384

see page 220 (Pineapple)

leaves

**Plants completely denuded of leaves.**

*Luperodes quaternus* Fairm.

COLEOPTERA; *Chrysomelidae*

652

Small, longish oval, convex beetle, about 10 mm long, of metallic colouring (see Fig. 23). Both adults and larvae feed on leaves. The pest emerges at the beginning of the rainy season.

*Distribution:* Africa

**Leaves and stems destroyed.**

*Spilosoma strigatula* Walk.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Arctiidae*

653

Small, stocky moth, light in colour, which places its eggs on the leaves. The caterpillars are hirsute, brownish-yellow to ochrous with a light coloured line along the back.

*Distribution:* Indonesia.

**Leaves and stems mostly destroyed.**

leaves

*Amsacta albistriga* Walk.*Red hairy caterpillar.*LEPIDOPTERA; *Arctiidae*

654

Reddish to brownish, hirsute caterpillar, 20-30 mm long, which occurs often in great masses. It is chiefly harmful in West-Monsoon regions. Several generations a year.

*Distribution:* India**Plants stripped bare.***Catopsilia eurythme* Boisd.*Alfalfa caterpillar.*LEPIDOPTERA; *Pieridae*

655

Small, yellow butterfly, which lays its eggs on the leaves. The caterpillars are green, covered with a fine pubescence. The pest sometimes occurs in great masses, especially in irrigated sections, but it only occasionally attacks groundnuts. Several generations a year.

*Distribution:* U.S.A., Mexico**Leaves heavily attacked, especially at the margin.***Mylloceris* sp.COLEOPTERA; *Curculionidae*

656

Stocky, convex weevil, about 10 mm long, with a short and stumpy snout. The insect, which attacks the leaves, is clothed with grey to silvery scales.

*Distribution:* India**Leaves spun together and destroyed. Presence of very active caterpillars.***Stomopteryx subsecivella* Zell.*Groundnut surul.*LEPIDOPTERA; *Gelechiidae*

657

Dark green to brownish-green hairless caterpillars, about 20 mm long, the segments of which bear black spots. They skeletonize the leaves and spin them together.

*Distribution:* South Africa, India, Ceylon, Indonesia

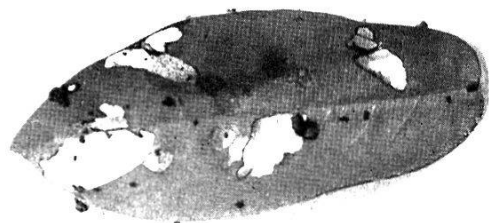


leaves

**Leaves spun together and destroyed.**

*Maruca testulalis* Geyer  
Mung-moth.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Pyralididae*



658

331, 614

Small moth with brown forewings and flecked white and greyish-white hindwings. The eggs are laid on the leaves on which the hatching dark to greyish-green caterpillars feed, spinning them together. They often occur in vast numbers and emerge in March/May. Several generations.

*Distribution:* practically wherever groundnuts are grown

**Leaves heavily attacked.**

*Lamprosema indicata* F.  
Bean leaf webber.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Pyralididae*

659

329

Small moth with light or dark markings. The light to dark green caterpillars feed on foliage. Several generations.

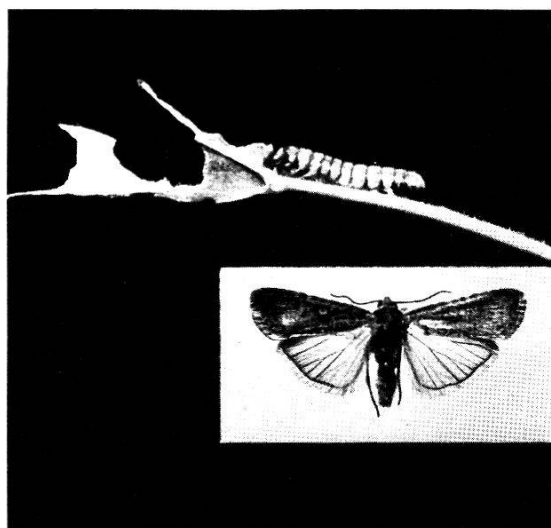
see page 196 (Beans)

*Distribution:* Africa, East Asia, the West Indies

**Most of the leaves and stems destroyed.**

*Laphygma exigua* Hb.  
Beet armyworm.

LEPIDOPTERA; *Noctuidae*



660

35, 704, 807

see page 409 (Cotton)

*Distribution:* Europe, Africa, India, U.S.A., Japan

**Severe injury to leaves, plants often stripped bare.***Achaea finita* Gn.LEPIDOPTERA; *Noctuidae*

Moth with a wing span of 50-60 mm. Both fore- and hindwings are dark greyish-brown with dark, indistinct zigzag lines. The outer margin of the wings has a pale edge. The eggs are fixed to the underside of the leaves. The hairless caterpillars are brownish-grey to brownish-yellow, with a pale lateral line, and a black lateral dot on each segment. The penultimate segment bears in addition two dark, erect dorsal tubercles. The caterpillars feed at night, hiding in day time in the topsoil.

*Distribution:* Africa, Mauritius

leaves

661

**Leaves and stems severely injured, plants often stripped bare.***Prodenia litura* F.*Cotton worm.*LEPIDOPTERA; *Noctuidae*

see page 423 (Cotton)

662

132, 194, 32  
629, 703, 83  
867**Leaves destroyed, plants often stripped bare.***Chrotogonus* sp.ORTHOPTERA; *Acridiidae*

Grasshopper with a broad, depressed body, 15-20 mm long, of ochrous to brownish-yellow colour.

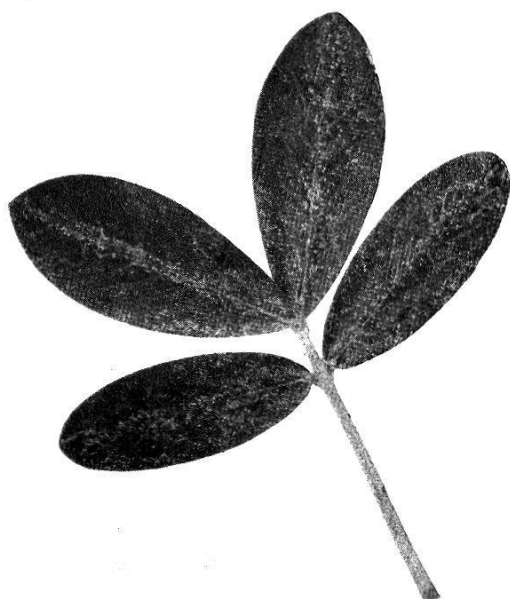
*Distribution:* Africa

663

**Leaves mottled white and yellow, and misshapen. Plants stunted.***Scirtothrips dorsalis* Hood  
*Thrips.*THYSANOPTERA; *Terebrantia*

664

748



see page 384 (Chillies)

leaves **Leaves wither. Attacked flowers and leaves marked with tiny black dots (excrement).**

*Taeniothrips distalis* Karny

*Thrips.*

THYSANOPTERA; *Terebrantia*

665

Small, light brown thrips, about 2.5 mm long (see Fig. 13), which lives mainly on the underside of the leaves and in the flowers. It oviposits in the leaves.

*Distribution:* India

**Leaves turn yellow, their margins curling upwards. Often severe leaf-shedding.**

*Heliothrips indicus* Bagn.

*Cotton thrips.*

666

THYSANOPTERA; *Terebrantia*

Minute, light brown thrips, about 2-3 mm long (see Fig. 13), which inserts its eggs into the leaves. Several generations.

*Distribution:* Africa, India

667



**Growth stunted. "Groundnut rosette disease virus". Leaves stained yellow and shrivelled; internodes shortened. Fruits rudimentary.**

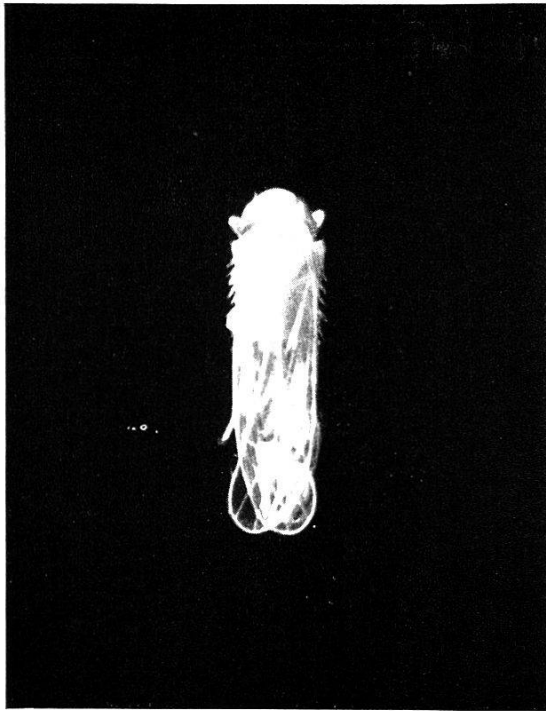
*Cicadulina arachidis* China

*Cicadulina similis* China

HOMOPTERA; *Jassidae*

Reddish-yellow to pale green leafhopper, 2 mm long. The dorsal side of the abdomen is brown, the ventral side yellow. The wings are transparent. *C. similis* resembles *C. arachidis* except that the head of the former is marked with 2 small dark dots. The adults and nymphs live on the underside of leaves and fly off at the slightest movement of the plant. The eggs are laid in the leaves. Several generations. The pest emerges in April/May.

*Distribution:* Africa



**Leaves turn yellow and wither, from the margin inwards, curling downwards. Plants stunted.**

leaves

*Empoasca fabae* Harr.

Bean leafhopper

*Empoasca fabae* Jac. (Africa).

HOMOPTERA; Jassidae

668

Small, pale green leafhopper, only 3-4 mm long, with white flecks on the front margin of the thorax. The nymphs are smaller than the adults, almost white and unable to fly. They live on the underside of the leaves where the exuviae can be found. The adults fly up in swarms when disturbed. Several generations each season.

*Empoasca* transmits also "Rosette disease".

*Distribution:* U.S.A., Bermudas, Peru, the West Indies



**Leaves and stem covered with colonies of aphids. Growth stopped. Plants stunted.**

*Pergandeida robiniae* Macch.

HOMOPTERA;  
*Aphididae*

669

426

Dark green to brownish aphids, covered with a thin layer of wax, their legs bearing fine hairs (see No. 503). *Pergandeida robiniae* transmits also the groundnut rosette disease.

*Distribution:* Tropics and Subtropics

leaves

670

7, 351, 380  
4, 637, 769  
9, 820, 868  
874



**Leaves speckled white to grey, their margins curled up. Young leaves fail to unfold. Plants covered with webs in which small mites are visible.**

*Tetranychus urticae* Koch  
Common red spider.

ACARINA; *Trombidiformes*

see page 415 (Cotton)

*Distribution:* widespread

**Buds turn yellow and wither.**

*Frankliniella tritici* Hinds.  
Common flower thrips

671

THYSANOPTERA; *Terebrantia*

Small, brown thrips, 1-2 mm long, which deposits its eggs in the leaves and flower stalks. Egg to adult life cycle: 2-3 weeks. Several generations.

*Distribution:* U.S.A., South America

**Buds turn yellow and wither. Leaves speckled white to grey.**

*Frankliniella fusca* Hinds.  
Tobacco thrips.

672

THYSANOPTERA; *Terebrantia*

708

Brown thrips, 1.5 mm long, which deposits its eggs in the leaves and flower stalks. Development period of one generation: 8-10 days.

*Distribution:* U.S.A., South America

**Leaves riddled with holes, flowers often completely devoured.**

*Monolepta australis* Jac.  
Red shouldered leaf-beetle.

673

COLEOPTERA; *Chrysomelidae*

Oblong, bright metallic beetle, about 5 mm long, with reddish shoulder protuberances and light coloured legs. The adults emerge in large numbers, attacking the leaves.

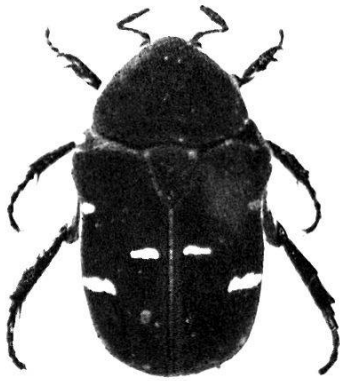
*Distribution:* Australia

**Flowers severely injured, often completely devoured.**

flowers

*Oxycetonia versicolor* F.  
Flower beetle.

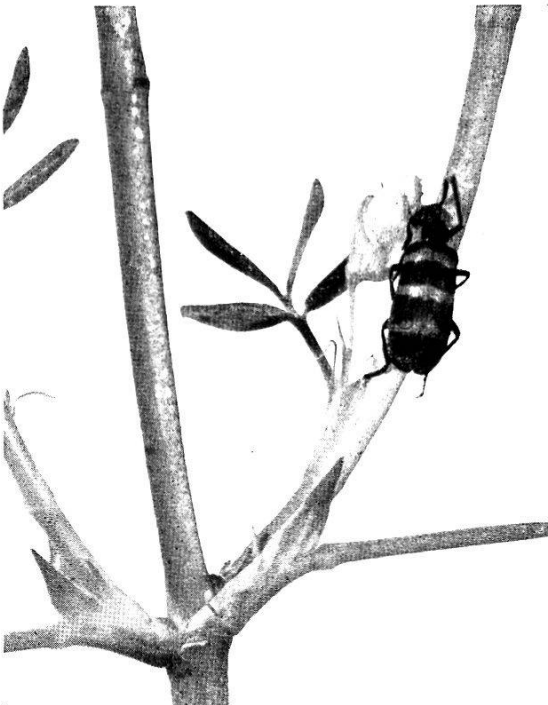
COLEOPTERA; Scarabaeidae



674

Rose chafer, about 15 mm long. The elytra are dull black with a few small, white spots placed crossways. The prothorax is dark and shiny. The pest attacks the flowers.

*Distribution:* India, Ceylon, Madagascar



**Flowers completely or partially destroyed.**

*Coryna apicicornis* Guér.

COLEOPTERA; *Meloidea*

675

Oblong, black and yellow dotted beetle, about 20 mm long, with a strikingly large abdomen. The pest is especially abundant at flowering time (March/April).

*Distribution:* Africa

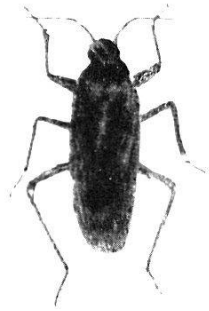
seed

**Seeds shrivelled and stained black, failing to germinate.**

*Aphanus sordidus* F.

*Pod bug.*

HETEROPTERA: *Lygaeidae*



676

Small, agile plant bug, 7-9 mm by about 3 mm. Its body is dark brown, with yellow markings; the wings are dark, and the antennae long. The eggs are laid on stored seed or in dust. The larvae (first to sixth instars) are mainly orange. One generation develops within about 60 days.

*Distribution:* Africa, India, China

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