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**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT OF THE RED PALM WEEVIL
(*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* Olivier)**

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ABSTRACT

Red Date Palm Weevil (RPW) *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier) Curculionidae, Coleoptera is a devastating insect on date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) in the Middle East countries. The RPW is also a lethal pest of date palm in the Gulf Co-operative Council (GCC) countries from where has moved to other Arab countries mainly due to the movement of infested planting materials. It is reported that the origin of the pest is India and has been introduced in the GCC countries in 1980s.

In the Mediterranean region, RPW also severely damages Canary Island Palm Trees (*Phoenix canariensis*). RPW attacks more than 17 species of palm trees worldwide. All the stages of insect are hidden inside the palm tree and larvae feed on the interior tissue of trunk. However the detection of infection in the early stages is very difficult or impossible. Currently, the pest is controlled by using chemical insecticides and aggregated pheromone traps. The aim of this study is to establish environmentally-safe control methods as an alternative to broad-scale pesticides for RPW.

This study reviews our works done during the last 16 years on various aspects of RPW. It includes economic importance, geographic distribution, symptoms, damage, life cycle, host range and methods of prevention and control. The study showed that the using IPM components such as: agricultural practices, tissue culture, organic agriculture, plant extracts, pheromone traps and biological control were cost-effective methods to reduce the damage caused by RPW and offered an environmentally alternative to reduce using of harmful chemical pesticides.