

SCIENTIFIC NOTES

Myllocerus curvicornis (F.), A New Pest of Coconut

The coconut palm provides abundant food to its pests all through the year and hence many pests are found on it. Nirula (1955) recorded 107 pests from different coconut growing tracts of India. Johnston (1965) published a list of 470 insects as pests of coconut from south east Asia and the Pacific region. Kurian et al. (1972) added *Paradsynus restratus* Dist. as a new pest on coconut in India.

Recently, an ash weevil was found feeding on the leaves of coconut in our experimental farm. It was identified as *Myllocerus curvi-*



Fig. 1. Adult of *Myllocerus curvicornis* (F.)

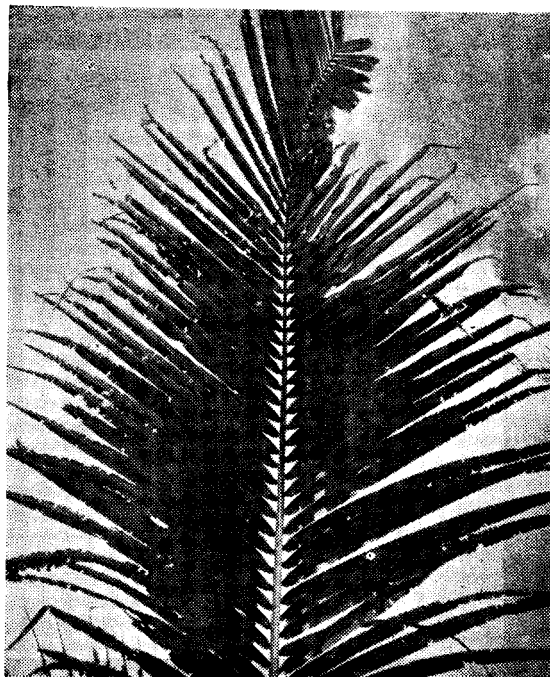


Fig. 2. Coconut leaf damaged by *Myllocerus curvicornis* (F.)

cornis (F.) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) (Fig. 1). The adult weevils remain on the lower surface of the leaflets, concentrating more towards the tip region, and feed from the margin in circular patches making turnrd feeding scars. Such injury causes necrtic patches leading finally to the bending and drying of leaflets (Fig. 2). The infestation is mostly confined to the middle and inner whorls, except for the unopened spindle and the 2-3 innermost leaves. Data on intensity of pest infestation, recorded from 100 sample palms, selected at random from 648 West Coast Tall (7 year old) palms, revealed 30% infestation with 14% of leaves attacked. A

leaf was considered infested when a minimum of 10 leaflets was attacked by the pest.

Mylocerus curvicornis (F.) has been reported as pest on *Acacia* spp., tea (*Camellia thea*), jujube (*Zizyphus jujuba*) (Hutson, 1920, 1922, 1933), cacao (Marshall, 1916), and *Erythrina lithosperma* (Light, 1927). We have

noticed it on *Glyricidia indica*, *Moringa pterigosperma*, *Stylosanthes gracilis*, *Mangifera indica*, *Cajanus cajan*, and Hybrid Napier, and Pusa Giant grasses.

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