

Stenocorynus weevils

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Stenocorynus spp.

Distribution

Beetles have been found in Meringa, on farms at Proserpine, and at Racecourse and Eton in the Mackay district. Damage to cane has also been observed at Meringa and Kelsey Creek. Weevils found in poor ratoons at Childers may belong to this group.

Damage

Grubs chew the rind and the root band of germinating setts or ratoons, killing young roots and eyes. If the eye survives, root damage causes poor germination and weak growth. Grubs may also bore into setts.

Description

Grubs are short, fat, legless and up to 12 mm long. They range from white to yellow with pale yellow heads and black mouthparts.

The adult is a typical 'snouted' weevil, 12 mm long. It is light brown with darker brown stripes along the head and body. The back is smooth and convex.

Biology

Little is known about its life cycle. In one infestation, grubs damaging cane were first found in August and began pupating in October. During October-November, grubs, pupae and beetles were present in the soil. Grubs had all pupated by the end of November and beetles emerged from the soil in mid-January following heavy rain. Beetles fed on nut grass, flannel weed and common sida, but not on cane leaves.

Management

The pest occurs rarely, and no control measures are known.