

RESEARCH NOTE

DIAPREPES ABBREVIATA LINNAEUS ON PHOENIX DACTYLIFERA L.

The date palm, *Phoenix dactylifera* L., is at present under investigation to determine its potential as an economic fruit crop plant for the xerophytic regions of Puerto Rico.

The adult sugarcane root-stalk borer weevil, *Diaprepes abbreviata* Linnaeus, has been observed feeding on female flowers and fruits only, in the *Kimri* stage. The damage inflicted by this insect to female flowers and *Kimri*-stage fruit causes them to abort within 48 to 72 hours.

Control of this pest on dates has been effective with a mist-spray application of 23-percent Aldrin-(HHDN)¹ at the rate of 1:100, plus a suitable sticker at manufacturers' recommendations. Mortality of this insect occurs within 6 hours after spray application.

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¹ No endorsement of named products is intended nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.