



Be On the LookOut (BOLO): **Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle** ***Oryctes rhinoceros* (Linnaeus, 1758)** **Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae**

Recent PPQ survey interceptions of the **Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*)** confirms that this serious pest of coconut palms is established in the Hickam AFB area. A joint PPQ– HDOA effort has recently discovered a large compost heap at Mamala Bay golf course containing all stages of development. Native to southern Asia, this scarab has caused extensive damage to coconut palms on Guam since their discovery in 2009.

Adults grow up to 2 1/2 inches in length and the larval grubs are 1 inch larger when mature. Larvae can be found feeding on decaying coconut palms and other organic material. The entire life cycle to adult takes about 4 months. Adults (imago) do the damage by boring large holes into the crown of live trees feeding on the sap and tissue juices. This beetle attacks many different palms including betel nut, sago, and dates. Other documented hosts include pandanus, sugar cane, pineapple, and banana (Lever, 1979).

Other rhinoceros beetles are very popular pets in Asia. Larvae are sold in vending machines and rhino beetle food is commonly sold in grocery stores. There are over 300 species of rhinoceros beetles in the world.

CRB is a **reportable, actionable** federal pest due to their limited distribution and the damage they can cause.

