

PESTS OF STORED PRODUCTS

1. Rice weevil, *Sitophilus oryzae*, *S. zeamais*, *S. granarius*, Curculionidae, Coleoptera

Life history: 150-250 E 4-5 d L
A 3-6 d P 20 d

Nature of damage: Both grub and adults cause the damage. Grains are hollowed out; kernels are reduced to mere powder. *S. oryzae* and *S. zeamais* starts its attack in field itself. Adults cut circular holes. Heating takes place during heavy infestation, which is known as 'dry heating'.

Grub: White with yellowish brown head, apodous, fleshy, curved, remains within the grain

Adult: Small, reddish brown to chocolate coloured weevils has characteristic snout, elbowed antennae, slightly clubbed. Hindwings present except in *S. granarius*. *S. zeamais* is the largest amongst the three species.

Host range: Sweet potato.

Life history: 200 E 3-5 d G
A 7-10 d P

Total life cycle : 1-1 ½ mon

Nature of damage: It is an important pest both in the field and in storage. Grubs bore into the tubers and make them unfit for consumption. They also attack the vines. Adult weevils feed on leaves, vines and tubers.

Grub: Whitish grub is apodous and has a brown head.

Adult: Slender, ant-like with a long snout, shiny black with reddish brown thorax and legs.

Host range: Paddy, rice, wheat, maize. It is able to attack paddy more easily than *S. oryzae*.

Life history: 550 E 4-6 d G 4