Scyphophorus acupunctatus **System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Curculionidae

Common name sisal borer (English), sisal weevil (English), Agave weevil (English), black weevil (English), Agave snout weevil (English), Agave snout-nosed weevil (English), Agave snout-nosed beetle (English), Agave billbug (English), Acapiche del nardo (English)

Synonym
Scyphophorus anthracinus , Gyllenhal
Scyphophorus interstitialis , Gyllenhal
Scyphophorus robustior , Horn
Rhyncophorus asperulus , Dietz

Similar species

Summary *Scyphophorus acupunctatus* is becoming a major pest of native Agavaceae and Dracaenaceae species worldwide. Native to Mexico, it has decimated populations of Agave crops there, in particular species used in the tequila and henequen industries. The importation of ornamental Agave plants worldwide has facilitated *S. acupunctatus* to establish in many parts of the world, particularly in Central America and the Carribean, in Africa, Asia and South America. On its host species, it causes rot and sometimes mortality due to its larvae boring holes which then facilitates micro-organims entering the host. Due to the species being found generally inside the host species, typical insecticides have proven ineffective. However research on the species' pheromones has shown that these could be a potential management tool, attracting individual adults away from hosts to collection sites.

view this species on IUCN Red List

Species Description
The adult wevil body length is between 10-19mm, body colour is black, without dorsal scales.
The genus *Scyphophorus* has two species: *S. acupunctatus* - Sisal weevil and *S. yucca* - Yucca weevil.
Please follow this link to the PaDIL (Pests and Diseases Image Library) species content page to view diagnostic images of *S. acupunctatus* as well as a list of characteristics that separate the two species. (Walker, 2008a).

Lifecycle Stages
The life cycle takes about 50 – 90 days (Netherlands Plant Protection Service, 2009)

Habitat Description
Scyphophorus acupunctatus is a specialist insect attacking plants belonging to the Agavaceae and Dracaenaceae (Ruiz-Montiel *et al*, 2008). It attacks sisal (*Agave sisalana*) and other plants such as ornamentals (*Beaucarnea*, *Dasylirion* and *Yucca*, Tuberose, *Polianthes tuberosa*) (Walker 2008c). Larvae and adults of this species are found in roots, lower leaves, and inside the heads, especially on plants already in the process of putrefaction.

Reproduction
Mating and oviposition take place predominantly on the bottom of the leaves or inside the agave head (Lock, 1962 as seen in Ruiz-Montiel *et al*, 2008)

General Impacts
Scyphophorus acupunctatus is becoming a major pest of native Agavaceae and Dracaenaceae species worldwide. Native to Mexico, it has decimated populations of Agave crops there, in particular species used in the tequila and henequen industries (Hernandez *et al*, 2006; Bolanos *et al*, 2007). The importation of ornamental Agave plants worldwide has facilitated *S. acupunctatus* to establish in many parts of the world, particularly in Central America and the Carribean, in Africa, Asia and South America. On its host species, it causes rot and sometimes mortality due to its larvae boring holes which then facilitates micro-organims entering the host that decompose the plant tissues (Hernandez *et al*, 2007). *S. acupunctatus* has also been shown to be a vector of *Erwinia carotovora* which decomposes the host, causing putrefaction (Solis-Aguillar *et al*, 2001).

Management Info
Preventative measures: The Division of Fish and Wildlife on the island of St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, has undertaken public awareness information programmes to educate the public on native wildlife and what they can do to help protect them (Platenburg & Valiulis, 2009). The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, on Curaçao, part of the Netherlands Antilles, has developed a presentation that discusses past introductions of alien species and their effects on native biodiversity as well as alert species that can pose new threats to the islands; *Scyphophorus acupunctatus* has been identified as a potential invasive. This presentation is given to Customs, Aerocargo, Department of Agriculture personnel, importers of plants, nature groups and the public in general in order to raise awareness (van Buurt, 2009).
Chemical: Due to individuals being found within host plants and not externally, typical insecticides have proven ineffective. However current research has shown that isolated pheromones (Ruiz-Montiel *et al*, 2008) combined with effective collection tools like a Victor Trap could prove to be a potential control agent (Valdez *et al*, 2005).

Principal source:

Compiler: IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

Review:

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ALIEN RANGE

[1] BELIZE
[1] BRAZIL
[1] COLOMBIA
[1] CUBA
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[1] HONDURAS
[1] ITALY
[1] KENYA
[1] NETHERLANDS
[1] SAUDI ARABIA
[1] TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF
[1] BES ISLANDS (BONAIRE, SINT EUSTATIUS AND SABA)
[1] CAYMAN ISLANDS
[1] COSTA RICA
[1] DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
[1] FRANCE
[1] HAITI
[4] INDONESIA
[1] JAMAICA
[6] MEXICO
[1] NICARAGUA
[1] SOUTH AFRICA
[12] UNITED STATES

[1] VENEZUELA
[1] VIRGIN ISLANDS, U.S.
[2] VIRGIN ISLANDS, BRITISH

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Summary: This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

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