

Integrated Pest Management against *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) and *Paysandisia archon* (Burmeister, 1880) (Lepidoptera: Castniidae) on palms

In Cyprus, the majority of palms grown on the island are more of historic and decorative interest and less of date production. In the case of palm pests, the problem of their control is not an entomological one, but mainly, one of management. For the successful management of economically important pests like red palm weevil (RPW) *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* and palm borer *Paysandisia archon* (PA), it is mandatory to adopt a combination of methods and approaches, including public awareness campaigns (lectures, seminars, training, information posted on the Agricultural Research Institute and the Department of Agriculture websites, informative leaflets/posters, radio and TV presentations, popular articles in local magazines and newspapers), quarantine, cultural, mechanical, biological, pheromone trapping, chemical treatments, etc. Before launching any pest control programme, the quantitative relationship between yield and/or palm tree losses and pest population levels are estimated in order to compute the economic injury level for each pest. Therefore, combined use of all the available management measures in a rational way is the basis for the development of integrated pest control strategies. For the success of IPM, all methods listed above should be combined in a judicious manner and implemented accordingly. Just following a few methods and neglecting other proven methods will not give the desired results. Before deciding on the palm species to plant in various landscapes, it is important to know their sensitivity to both RPW and palm borer.

