

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB)

The invasive Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB), was accidentally introduced to O‘ahu in 2013. The beetle may have been brought during transit from the Pacific islands. It has been a pest throughout the Pacific and is notorious for damaging and eventually killing palm species. Native to Southeast Asia, Africa, China, and India, CRB is commonly mistaken for the Oriental Flower Beetle but much more destructive. Since discovered on O‘ahu, intense efforts have been made to contain and eradicate this invasive beetle.



CRB Life Cycle:

- 1) Eggs
- 2) Larva
- 3) Pupae
- 4) Adult

CRB Damage & Impacts:

Adult beetles bore through developing leaves, leaving distinct “v-cuts” on the fronds. Adult CRB fly at night and feed on the crown of the palm, eventually killing the tree. They prefer coconut though damage has been found on other potential food sources such as agave, papaya, pineapple, taro, and sugarcane. CRB also lay their eggs in decaying stumps or green waste. It is important to keep green waste to a minimum.

Coconut trees are vital to the environment, culture, and economy in Hawai‘i. Coconut trees are known as the “tree of life” throughout the Pacific. Their loss would be devastating for agriculture and future generations. Please be the “eyes and ears” of your community to help us protect our precious palms. CRB are not harmful to humans or pets.

CRB Traps:

Traps have been placed all around O‘ahu and are checked frequently. Traps are not meant to kill the CRB but to let us know where they are breeding. There is a pheromone lure which attracts the beetle. Once the CRB falls into the trap, the wingspan is too wide to let it fly out.



What to Do:

If you find a CRB or see damage, please note date, time, and location. Take before/after photos. Use gloves to place CRB in ventilated container. Immediately call 643-PEST (7378) or email: BeetleBustersHI@gmail.com.



Oriental Flower Beetle

is often mistaken for the CRB though this beetle is smaller, green with white spots, and has no horn.

