

Protocol for Preparing and Forwarding Suspect South American Palm Weevil from Survey Traps for Confirmation and to Maximize Red Ring Nematode Detection

Instructions for Personnel Servicing Traps:

1. When suspect palm weevils are recovered from palm weevil bucket traps, carefully remove the weevil and place it in a screw-top vial containing water. Do not rinse the surface of the weevil or put the weevil in alcohol. If the weevil is still alive, freeze it for several hours to kill it before immersing in water.
2. If possible, wrap Parafilm® around the vial screw cap to prevent leakage. Label the vial with a local collection number using a Sharpie® permanent pen.
3. From the liquid in the trap with a weevil, extract approximately 50 cc's from the:
 - a. top surface of the liquid in the trap if it is mostly propylene glycol;
 - b. bottom of the trap if it's mostly water.

Place the liquid sample in a separate container that will not leak. A pipette or glass (not plastic) turkey baster can be used for this. Be sure to rinse it thoroughly between samples if reused to prevent cross-contamination. Write the same collection number on this container.

4. Until the specimen and other container of water can be shipped for identification, place the vial in cool conditions such as an ice-chest with cool packs, but do not freeze the specimen.
5. As soon as possible, send the vial with the specimen in water cushioned in a crush-proof box by overnight carrier to a PPQ Identifier or State taxonomist in your state. Include a completed PPQ form 391 indicating it is in water, with the local collection number, and notify the taxonomist /identifier by e-mail that the specimen is being forwarded, supplying the overnight carrier tracking number. Also notify local PPQ and state program managers that the specimen is being forwarded. (Do not ship on a Friday, rather keep the specimen in a refrigerator until Monday when it can be shipped overnight without weekend delays).

Instructions for PPQ Identifier or State Taxonomist:

1. Once the package is received, remove the weevil and rinse it with water capturing the rinsate. Combine it with the water into a separate vial.
2. Forward the rinsate water, along with the water collected from the trap, in a screw-top vial wrapped with parafilm, cushioned in a crush-proof box with cool-packs, by overnight carrier to the ARS Nematology Laboratory address below. Include a copy of the PPQ form 391, and send an e-mail notifying the lab and the PPQ domestic diagnostics coordinator (joel.p.floyd@aphis.usda.gov and lynn.carta@ars.usda.gov) of the tracking number. (Do not ship on a Friday, rather keep the specimen in a refrigerator until Monday when it can be shipped overnight without weekend delays).

ATTENTION: Dr. Lynn Carta
Nematology Laboratory
USDA-ARS BARC-W, Bldg. 010A, Rm. 110
10300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705
office phone: 301-504-8787 lab phone: 301-504-7039 fax: 301-504-5062

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(Continued)

3. Place the weevil specimen cushioned in tissue paper in a small box insulated inside a larger crush-proof for overnight shipping to the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) address below for species confirmation. Enter the information from the PPQ form 391 into Pest ID and designate as “*Urgent*”. (Do not place in alcohol or pin the specimen).

Location Leader, USDA-ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory
c/o National Museum of Natural History, NHB 168
10th & Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004

Phone number for overnight carrier airway bill: 301-504-7041

4. Send an e-mail to the PPQ domestic diagnostics coordinator (joel.p.floyd@aphis.usda.gov) that the specimen is being forwarded and include the tracking number and Pest ID number.

Instructions for the SEL National Specialist:

1. After confirmation of South American Palm Weevil, *Rhynchophorus palmarum*, enter the confirmation and notify the domestic diagnostics coordinator and the SEL Communications and Taxonomic Services unit leader. The weevil will be transferred as soon as possible to the ARS Nematology Laboratory in Beltsville, MD for further analysis.

Results of all confirmatory analyses will be communicated through the normal protocol by the domestic diagnostics coordinator.

Please contact the PPQ Domestic Diagnostics Coordinator, Joel Floyd, if there are any questions about this protocol: by phone: 301-851-2115 or e-mail: joel.p.floyd@aphis.usda.gov