

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF THE RED PALM WEEVIL

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In the course of searching for biocontrol agents against the palm weevil, a number of fungal and bacterial species were found associated with the insect. The bacteria included *Pseudomonas sp.* and *Xanthomonas sp.* The fungi that were found associated with the collected insects included *Aspergillus sp.*, *Alternaria sp.* and *Cephalosporim sp.* Experiments were conducted to evaluate the biocontrol efficacy of the collected microorganisms. Two fungi, 2 bacterial preparations (one commercial, the other is a freshly grown bacterial suspension of *Bacillus thuringensis*) were tested for their efficacy against the red palm weevil. A plant extract and an insect growth regulator were also evaluated. Positive results were obtained using the fungal agents and the bacterial agents. The plant extract (Asofoetida) was effective on eggs. This material can be incorporated in the IPM program of the weevil.