



## Intraspecific Predation of Adult Red Palm Weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier) in the Artificial Breeding Colonies

The red palm weevil (RPW), *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* is still one of the most threatening pests to palm trees worldwide, it is considered an insect pest from (category I) in the Gulf region and the Middle East, according to (FAO).

Since the insect entered the Arab peninsula in 1984, biological, ecological, and control aspects have been studied carefully; however, no glimpse or observation refers to the intraspecific cannibalism phenomenon between adult individuals within the artificial breeding colony. The behavior was noticed when many RPW adults stacked on each other. The insects began to cut the hind legs of one of the individuals and then separate the head from the body, feeding on the mouthparts and the contents of the head and abdomen, where the parts appear empty when taken out of the colony.

Only males were found in the colony when it was demolished. The co-author confirmed the phenomenon and noticed the same behavior between the two sexes in different countries. The cannibalism between RPW adults is reported from Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the first time.

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