

THE HAKEA FRUIT WEEVIL

(*Erytenna consputa*)

A natural enemy of

SILKY HAKEA (*Hakea sericea*)

in South Africa

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DESCRIPTION

The weevils are mottled grey, black and red-brown, 4-5mm long with a long snout. They tend to shelter in the dry, brown fruits (husks) resulting from larvae hollowing out the developing fruits. The larvae are usually found inside the green fruits and look like small white grubs.

LIFE CYCLE

The adults lay their eggs in excavations in the leaf-tips and buds near young fruits or in the "horns" of the fruit between July and November. During this breeding season each female may lay 100 eggs. After about two weeks the larvae hatch and tunnel into the young growing fruits. Only one larva can live in each fruit, and may have to move between two to three fruits to complete its development. When full grown in October, the larvae tunnel out through one side of the fruit and pupate (develop into adult weevils) in the soil. The adults emerge from the soil in January.

FEEDING DAMAGE

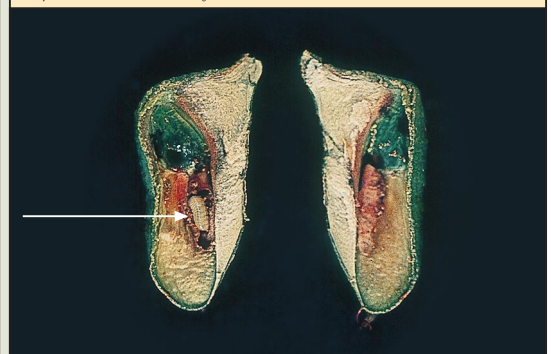
A fruit containing a weevil larva has a reddish colour at first and starts to yellow as it withers and dies. Fruits attacked by weevils have a small entrance and exit hole with signs of frass (faeces) around the eaten seed. Weevils are usually present in an area if there are black, dried, partially split remains of young fruits on the tree.

IMPACT ON HAKEA

The larvae destroy the green developing fruits of *Hakea sericea*. At some sites, the weevils have destroyed more than 80% of the seeds. Weevils can be found on the plants all year round but they are most active and easiest to collect between May and July.



Erytenna weevil on leaf



Erytenna larvae inside seed



Hakea before introduction of Erytenna - covered in fruit



Hakea after introduction of Erytenna - with damaged fruit capsules



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. PHONE: Weedbuster Toll-free Helpline: 0800 005 376
WEBSITE: PPRI website is located via links from the Agricultural Research Council website: www.arc.agrig.za

