



Department of Agriculture  
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## COCONUT LEAF BEETLE

*Brontispa longissima* (Gestro) or coconut leaf beetle (CLB) presence in the Philippines was reported in 2005, suspected to have entered into the country through the shipments of ornamentals.

- DA Special Order No. 256 (June 27, 2005) – issued to stop the spread and to control CLB and its impact.
- Over three million coconut trees have been affected by *B. longissima* infestation from August 2007 to March 2011.

**English name:** Coconut Leaf Beetle

**Scientific Name:** Coconut leaf Beetle

**Alternate Host:** Royal palm, Foxtail palm, Red palm, Manila palm, Velvet palm, Golden Veitcha, Palmera, Pygmy date palm, Fish tail palm, Betel nut palm, Sago palm, Ruffled fan palm, Nipa palm, Ivory nut palm, Mexican fan palm.

### Damage

Adults and larvae CLB

- Damage the leaflets of young unopened fronds grazing away the leaf surface in streaks, parallel to the midrib.
- Irregular, brown blotches are formed as the frond opens.
- Brown areas shrivel and curl, giving the leaf a characteristic scorched, ragged appearance.
- Large areas of the leaflets break off leaving the foliage partially skeletonized leading to decrease in photosynthetic capabilities.

Identifiable features and Characteristics

EGG

- Brown, elliptical, and about 1.5 mm long and 1 mm wide, with each end broadly rounded.

LARVA

- First instar larva – can grow up to 2mm, having a large head compared with the body
- Second instar grub – slightly larger
- Final instar – has a more segmented appearance



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## PUPA

- Light Yellow – Brown in Color; 9 – 10 mm long and 2 mm wide; exhibit U – Shaped hooks extending from the end of their body
- Lasts for 4 – 6 days

## ADULT

- 8.5 – 9.5 mm long and 2.00 – 2.25 mm wide; length of antenna is 2.75 mm.
- Males are slightly smaller than Females.
- Females lay an average of 120 eggs each
- Total life cycle ranges from 5 to 9 weeks

## PEST MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

### Preventive and Cultural Control

- Quarantine measures
- Phytosanitary measures
- Use of pest-free healthy plants
- Checking of nurseries for obvious signs of infestations
- Blockading and cutting of coconut palms up to three kilometers from the infestation spot
- Old and dead plantation fronds should be removed and destroyed at regular intervals to destroy adult beetles

### Biological Control

- Parasitoid (Trichogramma)
- Predator (Earwig)
- Entomopathogenic fungi (Metarhizium anisopliae)

### Chemical Control

- Application of FPA – Registered Pesticides



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*Navasero, Mario & MT, Zipagan & NT, Saavedra. (2008). The Coconut Leaf Beetle, *Brontispa longissima* (Gestro) (Chrysomellidae, Coleoptera), a serious threat to the Philippine coconut industry. Proceedings. 39<sup>th</sup> PMCP Anniversary and Annual Scientific Conference. 16 -25.*

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*Comia-Yebron R & batalon JT. 2011. The battle against *Brontispa* continues.*

*Pacific Pests, Pathogens & WEEDS.*

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*Hispine leaf beetle *Brontispa* sp.*

