

Feeding Behavior of Sweetpotato Weevil, *Cylas formicarius* (Fabricius) (Coleoptera:Brentidae) on Three Sweetpotato, *Ipomoea batatas* L. Cultivars Grown in Tarlac Philippines

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Abstract : Sweetpotato is grown in tropical countries for its edible tubers, which became an important source of food. It is usually propagated through vine cutting which may be obtained from harvested plants or from nurseries intended for cutting production only. The recurrent use of vines may cause increased weevil infestation. The crop is known to be infested with insect pests, more importantly, the sweetpotato weevil, *Cylasformicarius*, which targets the tubers and thus cause economic losses. Sweetpotato farmers in Tarlac claim that only one sweetpotato cultivar is being attacked by *C. formicarius*. However, in was found in this experiment that feeding and feeding behavior of the weevil were not affected by the cultivar provided; such that no significant differences were observed on the average amount of tuber consumed by both male ($F=0.86$; $df=2$; $P=0.45$) and female ($F=2.71$; $df=2$; $P=0.11$) and feeding time ($F=0.9$; $df=2$; $P=0.43$). Conversely, in terms of damage assessment, significantly different ($F=1.64$; $df=2$; $P=0.23$) results were noted.

Keywords : *cylas formicarius*, feeding behavior, insect pest, sweetpotato

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