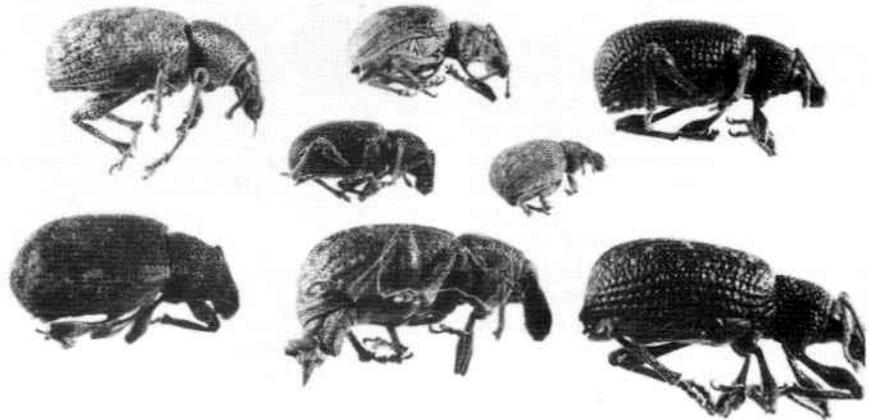
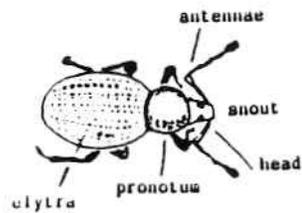


IDENTIFYING COMMON ROOT WEEVILS

**GENERAL
CHARACTERISTICS OF
ROOT WEEVILS:** Elbowed
antennae, broad snout, hard body,
don't fly, slow moving.



IDENTIFICATION OF ROOT WEEVILS (Left to right): Top row- Clay-Colored Weevil, Obscure Root Weevil, Rough Strawberry Root Weevil; Middle row- Strawberry Root Weevil, Small Grass Weevil; Bottom row- Woods Weevil, Woodburn Weevil, Black Vine Weevil.

After deciding if it fits best as A, B or C, find the most fitting numbered description after the chosen letter. Because of size and color variation, not all specimens will fit the description. It is best to use several specimens. Match the size of weevil with length of lines to left of description.

A. One solid color, not spotted or speckled. Reddish-brown or brown to black. Glossy. Not grey. Lines on back due to texture, not color. No scales seen at 10X magnification

1. Greater than 6 mm, most 7-8.5 mm. Dark reddish-black to nearly black. Round bumps cover pronotum....Rough **Strawberry Root Weevil** (*Otiorhynchus rugosostriatus*) - It feeds more extensively on the leaves than other root weevils. Not recorded on rhododendron.

2. Less than 6 mm, most 4.5-5.5 mm. Brown to black. A few elongate striations on top of pronotum....**Strawberry Root Weevil**, (*Otiorhynchus ovatus*) - Usually doesn't travel more than 2 meters. Susceptible to drying. Overwinters in areas with shorter growing season so they can complete egg laying in the late spring. New adults emerge late May through August.

3. See C-1, Black Vine Weevil.

B. Dull, light grey to tan. Less than 7 mm. Scales seen at 10X magnification

1. 3-4 mm. Grey, spotted ... **Small Grass Weevil**, (*Trachyphloeus bifoveolatus*). Tolerates drying conditions. It may be abundant in homes. Resistant to diazinon, but susceptible to malathion and guthion.

2. 4.9-6.8 mm. Dark wavy arrow pointing to tip of back. Light midline on top of pronotum. Dark eyes on light head. Elongated shape **Obscure Root Weevil**, (*Sciopithes obscurus*). Eggs are laid neatly on a leaf. Nitrogen fertilizer does not affect egg production. Adapted to fluctuating humidity and can withstand greater drying than the Black vine weevil. Also can lay eggs in colder weather. Not controlled by organo-chlorine insecticides.

C. Spots, checkering, or pattern on back. The weevil is usually more than 7 mm. Red-brown, black, dark sooty grey or brown. Visible scales.

1. Solid black with light colored spots on back. 8.3-11 mm, most 10 mm. Scales are confined to spots which are elongated scales **Black Vine Weevil**, (*Otiorhynchus sulcatus*). Like other weevils in the genus *Otiorhynchus*, the BVW scatters its eggs over or in the ground when it lays them. The adults normally stay near their food plant, but may walk 50 or more meters. Nitrogen fertilizer increases their fecundity. Adults feeding on Himalaya blackberry, or salal are much more fecund than those feeding on other plants. They are more abundant after wet summers and are common in and around houses, being attracted to porch lights. Overwintering adults are first seen in March while the first new adults emerge in late May. Malathion is effective against adults when the temperature is above 60°F.

2. Light brown to reddish brown with irregular light and dark mottling. Long egg tube which can be squeezed out of back. Elytra with longitudinal rows of white round spots edged by dark brown perimeter. 6-9 mm, average 7-8 mm...**Clay-colored Weevil**, (*Otiorhynchus singularis*).

3. With 7 thick, widely spaced, prominent ridges on back. Light spots on ridges. 8-10 mm long ...**Woodburn Weevil**, (*Dyslobus granicollis*). Overwinters as adults in ground. Only native root weevil that scatters eggs.

4. Erect fine stubble on back (view against white background). Sooty grey, some light grey. Light line on upper sides of pronotum extends onto elytra. 4.5-9 mm ... **Woods Weevil**, (*Nemocestes incomptus*). It is killed by malathion (at temperatures greater than 60°F) and diazinon. Not controlled by organo-chlorine insecticides. Development is continuous throughout the year. Very active weevil, but seldom troublesome.

Assistance from Sharon Collman the author.

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