

# A NOTE ON *SOPHROPS EURYSTOMA* (BURM.), A PEST OF COCONUT IN CEYLON

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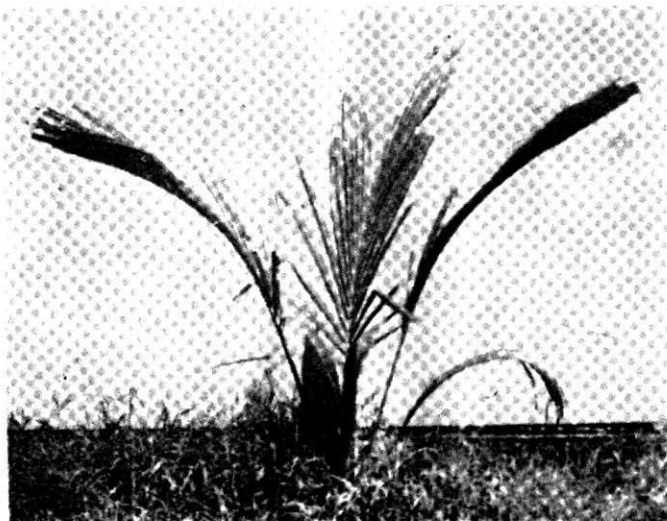
A pest identified as *Sophrops eurystoma* (Burm.) (Melolonthidae) was found to attack leaves of coconut seedlings at Olaboduwa Estate, Gonapola in July 1963. The damage was caused by the adult insect which feeds on the leaflets. Adult palms appear to be free from attack.

*S. eurystoma* is a small dark brown insect about 1.3 cm in length. Earlier the generic names *Microtrichia* and *Phytalus* were used. It has not been recorded as a pest of coconut before and appears to be confined to Ceylon.

Attempts to rear the pest under laboratory conditions were not successful.

If the pest is present, seedlings may be sprayed with a DDT emulsion at a concentration of 0.1%. This seems to have a repellent effect.

A detailed account of the pest will appear at a later date.



Seedling attacked by pest.



Adult *Sophrops crystoma* (Burtn.)