

***Scyphophorus acupunctatus* in Sansevieria**

The agave weevil, *Scyphophorus acupunctatus*, is native to the southwestern United States and Baja California, Mexico and Central America. It is a major pest of *Polianthes tuberosa*, *Agave tequilana*, and *A. americana* var. *expansa* in central Mexico. In 1973 it was reported in Volusia County, Florida, in *Yucca recurvifolia*, *Y. gloriosa*, *Y. glauca*, and *Y. elephantipes*. The weevil was also found in *A. americana* in 1974. Thus, it is a significant pest of agave, yucca, and various other plants in the families Agavaceae and Dracenaceae. It has spread to Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola and also the northern countries of South America. Outside the Americas, it is found in Hawaii and west Africa.

In July 2010, agave weevil larvae were found feeding inside *Sansevieria trifasciata* in Lee County, Florida. *S. trifasciata*, also known as Sansevieria or the snake plant, is listed as a Category 1 invasive plant by FLEPIC. It is a tough plant, difficult to kill, and has high drought tolerance and low nutrient requirements. It can be found in many gardens of south Florida.

When the leaves of infested plants were cut open, the agent found one or two larvae feeding at the base of each leaf. When checking for affected plants, symptoms include a sparse stand, fallen leaves, slightly chlorotic leaves, leaves that easily pull away from the base of the plant, dieback of leaves from the tip down and rotted leaf bases.



Rotted leaf base and tip dieback are two of the symptoms of agave weevil infestation in Sansevieria.



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Collage of larval and adult weevils



Snake plant, *Sansevieria trifasciata*, Sanibel, FL



Century Plant, *Agave americana*, Cape, FL

Reference

Pott, John, N. 1975. A Yucca Borer, *Scyphophorus acupunctatus*, in Florida. Florida State Horticultural Society, pp. 414 - 416.

Other Fact Sheets

Scale on Glaucous Cassia

Scale on Wild Tamarind

Whitefly on Cocoplum

Hibiscus Insect Problems (power point)

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