



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Annual Research & Review in Biology
Manuscript Number:	2014_ARRB_11023
Title of the Manuscript:	ORYCTES RHINOCEROS BEETLES, AN OIL PALM PEST IN MALAYSIA
Type of the Article	Minireview Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	<p>1- Introduction should be improved upon. It is relatively too short and does not show evidence of an exhaustive review on the subject matter.</p> <p>2- The author should provide a brief comparison between the economic impacts of <i>O. rhinoceros</i> with that of other major groups of palm pests like Curculionidaes (e.g the Red Palm Weevil and other <i>Rhynchophorus species</i>).</p>	<p>The introduction has been improved upon.</p> <p>In Malaysia, <i>Rhynchophorus</i> spp. are major pest of coconut palm (Yunus & Ho,1980).</p> <p>Very little information or record is available on the attack of <i>Rhynchophorus</i> spp. on oil palm itself and its often only associated with minor secondary infestation in oil palm trees that have already been subjected to major damage by <i>O. rhinoceros</i>.</p> <p>Therefore in this manuscript, I have highlighted the possible secondary infestation by <i>Rhynchophorus</i> spp.. However it's not possible to provide a specific comparison between <i>O. rhinoceros</i> and <i>Rhynchophorus</i> spp on their economic impact to Malaysian oil palm industry.</p>



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	<p>3- What research approach was used in gathering data? Just literature review or field experiment conducted, taken into consideration the sentence “Selective attraction level to the pheromone traps had also been claimed to be observed among the beetle populations (Chung, Ebor Research, Sime Darby Plantations, pers. comm. 2002) suggesting the possible occurrence of a cryptic species complex”. What were the experimental designs, as well as specific results obtained?</p>	<p>This paper is written based on a compilation of literature review of previous works that have been carried out on this species in Malaysia.</p> <p>Regarding the sentence on ‘claims of selective attraction level’, this is solely based on observation and response received from plantation managers in this country during routine trapping and monitoring of beetles. These claims had further brought forward the hypothesis on possibility of cryptic species complex as selective attraction to pheromone is a form of prezygotic isolation. A group of researches which includes the author further initiated the first molecular genetic study on this pest and results have been published and it has been cited accordingly in this manuscript.</p> <p>Therefore, there are no specific experimental designs for this paper, however works and research cited in this manuscript have been conducted in relevant and scientifically organized manner.</p>
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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p>	<p>1- I doubt if the larvae stage of <i>Oryctes</i> species are eaten in Malaysia as it is the case in Africa. If this applies, what is the place of entomophagy in the biological pest control of <i>O. rhinoceros</i>, especially in private owned small plantations?</p> <p>I give more suggestions below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The paragraph on the mode of introduction of <i>O. rhinoceros</i> (line 98 -100) should appear above those explaining reasons of the species proliferation in Malaysia (i.e. line 98 -100 should be developed and inserted in line 74). - Line 14: A word is missing on the phrase “the modes of its introduction into” - Line 60: Replace “was” with “has” - Line 68: Replace “lower then” by “lower than” 	<p>In Malaysia, entomophagy is not common. However, there are recorded consumption of certain insect species in Sabah and Sarawak. Among the commonly consumed is the larval stage of a weevil <i>Rhynchophorus ferrugineus</i>.</p> <p>But to date, there has been no recorded or observed consumption of <i>Oryctes</i> species larvae in Malaysia. Therefore, the role of entomophagy as a biocontrol option of <i>O. rhinoceros</i> is not discussed.</p> <p>Line 98-100 which highlights mode of introduction of the beetles has been placed before the explanation on reasons for proliferation. – refer to text</p> <p>Line 14: corrected- refer to text</p> <p>Line 60: corrected- refer to text</p> <p>Line 68: corrected- refer to text</p>
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<u>Optional/General</u> comments	This is a potentially interesting paper which however needs published only after some minor corrections.	