

Pest Alert

DACS-P-01635

Pest Alert created 19-January-2005

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry
Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture

***Myloccerus undatus* Marshall, a weevil new to the Western Hemisphere**

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Weevils recently submitted from Broward County for identification are *Myloccerus undatus* Marshall, a native of Sri Lanka. They were identified by Dr. C.W. O'Brien of Florida A&M University. As the weevils have been collected from multiple localities and some were newly emerged, it is evident that this species is established in southeastern Florida from Homestead in the south to Boca Raton in the north.

There is virtually no information on this species in the literature besides the original description. Preliminary surveys by Division of Plant Industry inspectors and data enclosed with the original series of specimens suggest this weevil has an extremely broad adult host range. Thus far Florida records include 68 hosts as follows:

a palm, *Veitchia* sp. (Palmae); **akee**, *Blighia sapida* K. Koenig (Sapindaceae); **areca palm**, *Dyopsis lutescens* (H. Wendl.) Beentje & J. Dransf. (Palmae); **Australian brush-cherry**, *Syzygium paniculatum* Gaertn. (Myrtaceae); **beef tree**, *Guapira discolor* (Spreng.) Little (Nyctaginaceae); **black-olive**, *Bucida buceras* L. (Combretaceae); **bottlebrush**, *Callistemon* sp. (Myrtaceae); **Burmese fishtail palm**, *Caryota mitis* Lour. (Palmae); **buttonwood**, *Conocarpus erectus* L. (Combretaceae); **calamondin**, *Xcitrafortunella microcarpa* (Rutaceae); **carrotwood**, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* (A. Rich.) Radlk. (Anacardiaceae); **cashew**, *Anacardium occidentale* L. (Anacardiaceae); **citrus**, *Citrus* sp. (Rutaceae); **cocoplum**, *Chrysobalanus icaco* L. (Chrysobalanaceae); **copper leaf plant**, *Acalypha wilkesiana* (Euphorbiaceae); **crepe myrtle**, *Lagerstroemia indica* L. (Lythraceae); **dahoon holly**, *Ilex cassine* L. (Aquifoliaceae); **earleaf acacia**, *Acacia auriculiformis* A. Cunn ex Benth. (Leguminosae); **erythrina**, *Erythrina* sp. (Leguminosae); **figus**, *Ficus* sp. (Moraceae); **Florida trema**, *Trema micranthum* (L.) Blume (Ulmaceae); **glossy shower**, *Senna surattensis* (Burm. f.) Irwin & Barneby (Leguminosae); **golden dewdrops**, *Duranta erecta* L. (Verbenaceae); **grapefruit**, *Citrus x paradisi* Macfad. (Rutaceae); **hackberry**, *Celtis laevigata* Willd. (Ulmaceae); **hibiscus**, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L. (Malvaceae); **Hong Kong orchid tree**, *Bauhinia x blakeana* S.T. Dunn (Leguminosae); **jaboticaba**, *Myrciaria cauliflora* (DC.) O. Berg (Myrtaceae); **jambolan plum**, *Syzygium cuminii* (L.) Skeels (Myrtaceae); **lantana**, *Lantana camara* L. (Verbenaceae); **laurel oak**, *Quercus laurifolia* Michx. (Fagaceae); **live oak**, *Quercus virginiana* L. (Fagaceae); **longan**, *Dimocarpus longan* Lour. (Sapindaceae); **loquat**, *Eriobotrya japonica* Lindl. (Rosaceae); **lychee**, *Litchi sinensis* Sonn. (Sapindaceae); **mahoe**, *Hibiscus tiliaceus* L. (Malvaceae); **mahogany**, *Swietenia mahagoni* (L.) Jacq. (Meliaceae); **mamey sapote**, *Pouteria sapota* (Jacq.) H. E. Moore & Stearn (Sapotaceae); **mango**, *Mangifera indica* L. (Anacardiaceae); **muscadine**, *Vitis rotundifolia* Michx. (Vitaceae); **no common name**, *Tetrastigma* sp. (Vitaceae); **orange jasmine**, *Murraya paniculata* (L.) Jack (Rutaceae); **orchid tree**, *Bauhinia* sp. (Leguminosae); **oriental arborvitae**, *Platyclusus orientalis* (Cupressaceae); **passionflower**, *Passiflora* sp. (Passifloraceae); **peach**, *Prunus persica* (L.) Ratsch. (Rosaceae); **pigeon plum**, *Coccoloba diversifolia* Jacq. (Polygonaceae); **plumbago**, *Plumbago auriculata* Lam. (Plumbaginaceae); **pongam**, *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre (Leguminosae); **powderpuff**, *Calliandra haematocephala* Hassk. (Leguminosae); **pygmy date palm**, *Phoenix roebelenii* O'Brien (Palmae); **red maple**, *Acer rubrum* L. (Aceraceae); **red silk-cotton tree**, *Bombax ceiba* L. (Bombacaceae); **rouge plant**, *Rivina humilis* L. (Phytolaccaceae); **salt bush**, *Baccharis halimifolia* L. (Compositae); **seagrape**, *Coccoloba uvifera* (L.) L. (Polygonaceae); **shrubby false buttonweed**, *Spermacoce verticillata* L. (Rubiaceae); **Spanish lime**, *Melicoccus bijugatus* Jacq. (Sapindaceae); **spinach**, *Spinacia oleracea* L. (Chenopodiaceae); **strangler fig**, *Ficus aurea* L. (Moraceae); **Surinam cherry**, *Eugenia uniflora* L. (Myrtaceae); **tropical almond**, *Terminalia catappa* L. (Myrtaceae); **Turk's cap**, *Malvaviscus penduliflorus* DC. (Malvaceae); **upland cotton**, *Gossypium hirsutum* L. (Malvaceae); **water chestnut**, *Pachira aquatica* Aubl. (Bombacaceae); **white mulberry**, *Morus alba* L. (Moraceae); **wild tamarind**, *Lysiloma*



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latisiliquum Benth. (Leguminosae); **woman's tongue**,
Albizia lebbek (L.) Benth. (Leguminosae).

The weevil is superficially similar to the native *Artipus floridanus* Horn in size at 7-8 mm long, and in its general whitish-grey coloration. However, it differs in many details, the most conspicuous of which is the dark mottling of the upper surface and the yellowish head. All the femora are spined in *M. undatus*, as opposed to *A. floridanus*, in which none of the femora are spined. Compare figures of the two species below.

Surveys are ongoing to delimit the extent of the infestation. Suspect weevils should be sent in alcohol to Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100.



Myllocerus undatus Marshall, an exotic weevil newly established in south Florida, on tropical almond.



Damage by *M. undatus* on crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* sp.)



Damage by *M. undatus* on loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*)



M. undatus, lateral view



M. undatus, dorsal view



M. undatus, hind femur, note spines



A. floridanus, lateral view



A. floridanus, dorsal view



A. floridanus, hind femur, note lack of spines