

# BLACK VINE WEEVIL

Coleoptera: Curculionidae

*Otiorhynchus sulcatus*

Bug  
of the  
Month



**Background.** The black vine weevil (BVW) is a polyphagous pest of increasing importance to agricultural crops, such as grapevines. Distribution in vineyards is patchy due to the tendency of populations to aggregate. The larvae cause the most economic damage by feeding on roots. **Biology.** Rose BVW are flightless beetles, having just one generation per

year. Overwintering prepupae complete their development in spring, adults emerge from early June to late July, peak in mid-June, and oviposition begins in mid-July. Females lay up to 500 eggs over 2-3 weeks. Larvae are under 0.5" long and whitish in color with a brown head. Adults range from 0.35 to 0.47 inches long and are black with yellow speckles. Adults

are nocturnal and cause mainly aesthetic damage to plants by notching leaves. Their nocturnal behavior can complicate pest scouting efforts in vineyards, since spray schedules target emerging weevils based on the detection of egg-laying adults: BVW are chemically controlled at the larval stage using soil drench insecticide applications.

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