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The Red Palm Weevil is the most important pest that attacks date palms. Fungi, which form part of an integrated pest management program, are the best crop protection tools to control them.

To date, though, because of limited information on the specific type of fungus needed to control Red Palm Weevils, little could be done to facilitate their practical use as a pest control tool.

Now, new work by an ICARDA-sponsored graduate student has brought fresh focus on how to deploy *Beauveria bassiana* fungi successfully against these weevils. Ms. Zilal Al-Kadour has shown that specific temperature regimes are needed to encourage fungal growth, allowing better fungal infection of pests and thereby improving the productivity of date palms across the Middle East and North Africa.

Ms Zilal's work on date palm pest management at the University of Aleppo was supervised by Dr Mustapha El Bouhssini, ICARDA's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) specialist and funded by ICARDA's IPM Program.



A Red Palm Weevil killed by fungus