

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This study is emphasized on the taxonomic characters of various stages of the genus Oryctes of Thailand, which there are two species, but some taxonomists treat these two species as one. This argument will be satisfactorily solved only when the specific identification has been definitely proved. By means of collecting the specimens from various coconut-growing districts in Thailand, classifying the two species by biological species concept, and illustration will help clarify the species. This study proves that there are two species that damage the coconut trees, there are:

Oryctes rhinoceros (Linn.) and Oryctes gnu Mohn. The detailed description of these two species has been reported by Wattanapongsiri (1959). But there are some distinct characters are omitted in his paper such as mandible, labium of the adult stage, and the number of stridulatory teeth on the dorsal surface of the maxilla in the larval stage which are different taxonomically between the two species. Wattanapongsiri described that the lower anal lip does not have any of the long, slender setae present, but this study found that the lower anal lip is covered with long, slender setae. A very good description of the genus Oryctes and also of O. rhinoceros

(Linn.) has been given by Arrow (1910).

The writer does hope that this study will serve as a step to further research, for these two species of beetles have long been known as a more or less serious pests of coconut trees in many tropical areas, and cause much great financial loss. To attain success, it is necessary that more specific taxonomic characters should be collected.

