

## **An investigation into the Biology of the Yam weevil (*Palaeopus costicollis* Mshl.) – Preliminary Studies**

Sherwood, M.A. 1998

### **[Abstract]**

Jamaican yams for export have for many years been disinfested of pests, mainly yam weevil (*Palaeopus costicollis* Mshl.) by fumigation with methyl bromide. However, this chemical will be banned by the year 2010, as it contributes to the depletion of the ozone layer. Therefore, an acceptable means of controlling yam weevil infestations both in the field and at storage is required. The starting point to any possible approach requires knowledge of the weevil. Therefore a laboratory study was undertaken. The study revealed that the beetle has a generation time of 54 to 67 days on 'Renta yam' (*Dioscorea alata*), 'yellow yam,' (*Dioscorea cayenensis*), Negro yam' *D. rotundata* and a fecundity range of 27-38 weevils per female/day on the same varieties. The adult beetle appears not to fly.