

***Caryedon serratus*, the Peanut bruchid (Chrysomelidae)**

An important pest on tamarind pod/fruits and peanut in-shell; also attacks fruits/pods of *Acacia arabica* (Babul) and *Cassia fistula*. In groundnut, field infestation starts after harvest during sun-drying prior to storage and thereafter continues throughout the storage period. Infestation is restricted to the superficial layers of the bulk. Adults are robust (3.5 to 7 mm long), grayish in color with dark markings on the elytra. They have long legs and antennae; femur of hind leg markedly enlarged. It oviposits on the surface of the groundnut shell/pod. The larva hatches into the seeds without coming to the exterior. Unlike other Bruchids in *C. serratus* the fully grown larvae leave the seeds, cut exit holes in the pods and pupate in a papery but tough cocoon. Presumably, there is a dormant phase on groundnuts that carries the infestation over from one crop to the other. The adult remains within the cocoon for several days after emergence from the pupa. Temperature range for breeding is 25 to 35°C and the shortest life cycle of 41 days has been reported at 33°C and 90% RH. Oviposition is greatest at 27°C and 50-70% r.h. Adults short-lived, non-feeding and fly.

