

### ***Sitophilus oryzae*, the Rice weevil (*Curculionidae*)**

A predominant pest on stored grains and it can also breed on certain pulses and solid cereal products (e.g., pasta). Reddish-brown insects of 2-4 mm size, pronotum with deep punctures; the pits are rounded and closely compacted. They have 4 dull yellowish spots on the elytra. Adults can fly. Adults have long life up to 1 year and they lay their eggs throughout their adult life. Up to 150 eggs are laid per female. Larva, an internal feeder develops inside grain. At 25°C and 70% RH. life cycle is completed in 36-40 days (egg 4-7 days, larva 18-22 days, pupa 6-14 days and pre-adult stage 3-6 days).

A similar species, *S. zeamais*, the maize weevil is slightly larger than *S. oryzae*. It is an important pest on stored maize and can also breed in rice as well as wheat. It prefers and breeds in grain of 20% moisture and therefore infests grain at the time of harvest in the field and in threshing areas.

