

2009

April

Composition of Various Stages of *Oryctes rhinoceros* (Linn) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) in Mulch of Oil Palm Empty Fruit Bunches

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The composition of various stages of Oryctes rhinoceros (Linn) infesting oil palm empty fruit bunches (EFB) was investigated in newly replanted areas in Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) Lepar Utara 05 Plantation, Bandar Jengka, Pahang for 20 weeks. The life stages of the beetle recovered consisted of three larval instars, pre-pupa, pupa, and adult. No eggs were collected in the EFBs. Based on the total numbers collected during the study period, second instar (40%) and third instar (35.5%) larvae predominated; first instar larvae (12%), pre-pupae (0.3%), pupae (4.1%) and adult (8.2%) were relatively few. The beetle was recorded throughout the trial period since all life stages (except for eggs) were continuously encountered in the EFBs during the 20 weeks of investigation except during weeks 11, 19 and 20. The study suggested that the empty fruit bunches may serve as potential breeding sites for O. rhinoceros if not managed properly.

Keywords: Rhinoceros beetle, oil palm, life stages, empty fruit bunches, mulch.