Silky cane weevil

Recognize the problem
The weevil causes very severe damage. It almost completely destroys mature stems, leaving only decayed and fermented dry bagasse. The damage is caused by worms that make large holes inside the sugarcane stems, completely destroying them.

The yield decreases and there is less chancaca. The silky cane weevil is an insect that measures 2 cm, the size of a corn grain. The adults have orange or yellow spots or stripes on their wings. Their offspring are yellowish white worms with a dark brown head.

Background
The weevil lays its eggs in canes that are perforated by the borers, racked or broken by the wind. It is necessary to prevent adult weevils from laying eggs on canes.

Management
Fresh cuts that are left after harvest should be protected with the following control methods.

- The fungi *Beauveria bassiana* and *Metarhizium* spp. (Probiobass and Probiomet) should be applied at the beginning of cane regrowth at 100g/ha by spraying the whole plant and the cane neck to eliminate worms. Apply as per instructions on the label.
- Use poison baits. Mix 20 mL Chlorpyrifos plus 4 L molasses in 16 L water. Leave crushed cane pieces in the mixture for 8 hours. Distribute them every 10 m around and inside the field. The weevils will be attracted by the cane and will die.

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > *Metamasius hemipterus sericeus*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Bolivia

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