

## **RECENT ADVANCES IN INSECTICIDE TREATMENTS AND APPLICATION AGAINST RPW**

**Michel Ferry**

Scientific Director, Phoenix Research Station, Elche, Spain

The main problem regarding the treatments against the RPW is not really the type of chemical insecticides or of biological agents to apply but the way to reach the pest.

Regarding preventive treatments, the recent rectification of false ideas on RPW oviposition and the difference that has been established between palms have led to recommend soaking treatments precisely targeted and differentiated according to the palms.

No significant advance regarding the type of insecticide to be used can be noticed. Many insecticides are efficient against the RPW. Data on their persistency to establish the frequency of the treatments are still very weak. Some experimentation have been conducted to increase this persistency by inserting the insecticide in support (coat, paint). Regarding natural products, nothing new but some research is under way.

Injection technique for preventive or sanitation treatments can be useful in precise circumstances. The limitation factor is that these treatments cannot be repeated too often as they create a wound that can compartmentalize but will never be recovered by new tissue at the difference of what occurs with trees. For ornamental palms, new injection technique based on micro-infusion of an avermectin insecticide allows to protect the palms very easily and at very low cost during one year.

More generally, it has been confirmed that the use of preventive treatments for an indefinite time leads to an environment and health impasse: the presence of insecticide residues in dates has been associated in some places to excessive applications of preventive treatments against the RPW. Preventive treatments must be applied only in precise circumstances and in the framework of integrated management programme aimed to obtain the rapid regression of the pest.

The treatment of the palms closed to the traps allows eliminating the weevils that have not been captured. The evolution of captures in the traps and of new infested palms allows to organize and to regulate the treatment use.