

Oviposition pattern of the strawberry blossom weevil *Anthonomus rubi* Herbst (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in Eastern Norway

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The weevil *Anthonomus rubi* Herbst is a pest in strawberry and raspberry because it oviposits in flower buds and thereafter severs the bud stalks. Few field studies have been conducted on details of the oviposition pattern of *A. rubi*. Such data from strawberry fields of the cultivar «Korona» in the east of Norway are presented. No significant difference in the total number of damaged buds, which corresponds with the number of eggs laid, was found between the edge and the middle of the field. Early in the season more damaged buds were found in plant rows exposed to south or west than those exposed to north or east. Most of the damaged buds, 66 %, contained one egg, 17 % two eggs and 4 % 3-4 eggs, while 13 % contained no eggs. The distribution of eggs could vary over time. Damaged clusters of buds, i.e. several buds damaged simultaneously by a single cut in their common stalk, were reported for the first time, increasing the damage potential of the weevil. The number of eggs in these clusters followed a random distribution.

Keywords: *Anthonomus rubi*, strawberry blossom weevil, oviposition pattern

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