Control of larger grain borer in stored maize

Recognize the problem
Larger Grain Borer (LGB) is locally called Nankafumbwe wamkulu. It is a dark brown beetle which has a square body. This pest destroys maize grains when they are in storage.

Background
LGB attacks maize right from the field and continues in the store. It also feeds on wood, plastics, storage bags and cassava. LGB bores into the grain, and feeds, leaving an empty shell, while the weevil only feeds on the heart of the grain. LGB also lives in the granary (un mudded “nkhekwe”), especially in old maize granaries, and is ready to attack as soon as you put your maize in the store. LGB finds it difficult to enter dry maize.

Management
The IPM strategies could be applied as follows:
• Harvest early, before LGB gets into the grain. Harvest maize as soon as the black layer has formed between the tip of the maize grain and the cob.
• Shell and dry maize until it is very dry. The maize must be so dry that when you bite it, it is hard to break.
• For those who can afford to, store shelled maize after drying in a dry metal silo. After loading, leave space for placing a lit candle inside and cover with the lid and the outlet using rubber band so that it’s airtight. The lit candle will go out (extinguish) due to lack of oxygen, and the insects will die of suffocation.
• Admix Pirimiphos-methyl + Permethrin (Actellic Super) or Fenitrothion 50g/L + Deltamethrin 5g/L (Shumba Super), dust formulations insecticides, at 25g/50kg dried maize on a mat or tarpaulin using a shovel/plate and store treated grain in polypropylene or in storage structures.

All insecticides must be bought from registered agro-dealers like ATC and Farmers Organisation.

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) > Prostephanus truncatus

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Malawi

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