

BAMBOO LONGHORN BEETLES

(*Chlorophorus annularis*)

THE THREAT

Bamboo longhorn beetles are post-harvest pests of bamboo. The larvae feed on dry bamboo stems and harvested canes and stakes and are not likely to cause damage to other plants or plant products in New Zealand.

The bamboo tiger longhorn beetle, *Chlorophorus annularis*, is a new to New Zealand organism of particular interest to MPI. This species is an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act.

BACKGROUND

A small number of bamboo longhorn beetle larvae and adults were recently found in bamboo canes imported from China. Bamboo canes from the infested consignment were distributed throughout New Zealand before the infestation was found and MPI contacted. The canes have been on sale to the public for several months. MPI is investigating the size and distribution of the infestation and the best way to manage the biosecurity risk.

MPI needs your help to find these pests and asks that you report any suspected sightings to 0800 80 99 66.

If you have purchased bamboo stakes in recent months, a quick inspection should determine if the beetles are present. Infested stakes will have loose frass (beetle dung) apparent when you shake or bang the stake. Any stakes with holes in them should be split open to determine if live larvae, pupae or adults remain.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

- » Stakes with circular or oval holes around 2 to 3 mm in diameter; frass and bamboo dust may be present.
- » Larvae inside the stakes are a rather slender, milky white with a brown mouthpiece and around 20 mm long and 4 mm wide.
- » Pupae in the stakes are similar colour to the larva, but have antennae and legs close to the body.
- » Adult beetles may be inside or outside the stakes and are small at approximately 15 mm long and 5 mm wide.
- » The head and body have distinct yellow with black tiger-like markings.

Bamboo longhorn beetles rely on bamboo for completing their life cycle so adults are likely to be found near bamboo.

If you think you have seen any of these beetles, contact MPI immediately on

0800 80 99 66

If possible, capture individuals and secure in a sealed container (with air holes). A photograph would be useful, as would detail of location, particularly GPS co-ordinates.



OTHER BAMBOO BORERS

The bamboo longhorn beetle is only one of several insects that attack harvested bamboo. At least eight other species of longhorn beetles are known to damage bamboo products including bamboo stakes. Please report any beetles or larvae you find in imported bamboo stakes.



Information is available at:

www.mpi.govt.nz/news-resources/news/bamboo-longhorn-beetles

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