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Wood-Boring Weevil

Euophryum confine



GENERAL INFORMATION

The wood-boring weevil *Euophryum confine*, indigenous to New Zealand, was first recorded in Great Britain in 1937 and in Canada around 1980. The *Euophryum confine* is very similar to the *Pentarthrum huttoni*, and may have been misclassified before 1937. The Wood-boring Weevil can be found through the UK, but are more common in London. Less than 4% of beetle attacks in the UK are attributed to wood-boring weevils. The weevil can be found in the wild and in building materials, but is more commonly found in very damp conditions. The Wood-boring weevil exclusively eats wood that has been “predigested” by fungus..

SIGNS OF INFESTATION

Wood-boring weevils are found in plywood, hardwoods, and softwoods in areas of current or past fungal activity. The flight holes are generally irregularly oval to slit-shaped with jagged edges. Tunnels formed by the larvae and adults are circular, about 1/16” in diameter, generally straight, and run along the grain of the wood near the surface. Wood-boring weevils have small, ellipsoidal pellet-shaped, coarse frass. Dead weevils are often found on windowsills and around lights.

FOOD SOURCES

Wood-boring weevils feed on damp or decaying wood, but will also continue to eat dry wood that has previously attacked by fungus. Woods with a moisture content as low as 20% are that is covering flax tow or straw). still viable food sources, as are wood products such as cardboard and paper that have been infested with fungus.



Information current as of 7 March, 2015
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DIAGNOSTIC MORPHOLOGY

Adults:

- 2.6-3.2 mm long
- Dark brown to black cylindrical body
- Pear-shaped pronotum
- Long rostrum with elbowed antennae
- Short legs

Larval Stage:

White, curved, legless larvae, similar to
Common Furniture Beetle



The larvae feed on cellulose and hemicellulose, leaving lignin in their frass.

LIFE CYCLE

The female lays eggs just below the surface of the wood, in existing cracks or in holes made by the female. The eggs hatch after 16 days, and the larva pupates in 6 to 8 months after hatching. The pupal stage lasts for 16 days, and usually occurs between June and October. The adult weevil can live for 16 months, continuing to tunnel throughout its lifetime.

CONTROL & TREATMENT

The best method of control of Wood-boring weevils is to arrest fungal growth and reduce moisture levels in wood. The weevil generally will not colonize dry wood. Special attention should be paid to woods with current or past fungal activity, since these are targets for Wood-boring weevil attack. Insecticides can also be used to kill the weevil.

REFERENCES

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*The information for the fact sheet was gathered and assembled by Claire Walker

Adult image of Wood-Boring Beetle by Malcolm Storey from Encyclopedia of Life
http://media.eol.org/content/2012/12/11/13/45785_orig.jpg

Adult image of Wood-Boring Beetle by Malcolm Storey from Encyclopedia of Life
http://media.eol.org/content/2012/12/05/13/73451_orig.jpg