

Citrus Longhorn Beetle

Anoplophora chinensis Forster

Plant Pest Information Note

What is it?

It is an insect that originates from East Asia and is very harmful to a wide range of plants including a lot of native Irish trees. The female adult lays eggs at the base of trees; the larvae can then take from 1 to 3 years to develop inside the tree, all the while burrowing up and down inside the trunk (Picture 2), before it emerges through an exit hole (Picture 3). It poses no risk to human or animal health.



Picture 1: Adult Beetle (Courtesy of EPPO)

What are its Hosts?

The currently known hosts of this pest are listed opposite. However, as this insect is not native to Ireland it is possible that it may find other suitable hosts here.

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Acer</i>	Sycamore/Maple
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
<i>Alnus</i>	Alder
<i>Betula</i>	Birch
<i>Carpinus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Cercis</i>	Redbud
<i>Citrus</i>	Citrus
<i>Cornus</i>	Dogwood
<i>Corylus</i>	Hazel
<i>Cotoneaster</i>	Cotoneaster
<i>Crataegus</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Fagus</i>	Beech
<i>Lagerstroemia</i>	Myrtle
<i>Malus</i>	Apple
<i>Platanus</i>	Plane
<i>Populus</i>	Poplar
<i>Prunus</i>	Cherry
<i>Pyrus</i>	Pear
<i>Rosa</i>	Roses
<i>Salix</i>	Willow
<i>Ulmus</i>	Elm

Why should we be worried about it?

Any trees that have larvae developing in it may be killed. As a lot of its hosts are found in Ireland, it is an insect that we should be concerned about. It would have very serious economic and environmental impacts if it were to become established here. There is a large outbreak of this pest in the Lombardy Region of Italy and it has

also been found on domestic trees in Rome and in the Netherlands. From time to time it has also been found on imported consignments of plants.

How does it spread?

Apart from natural spread by flight in areas where it is present, the main method of spread internationally is in infested trees. As the larva would be in the trunk or roots of the tree, it can easily go undetected in plants that are being traded. Additionally, as it may take up to 3 years to emerge from the plant, in Irish conditions, it can be years before an infested batch is noticed. European emergency measures that were introduced in November 2008, recommend destructive sampling as the inspection method as this is the best method of detecting its presence.



Picture 2: Damage caused in the tree
(Courtesy of Olivier Dufour)

Action in the event of suspect cases

Staff of the Horticulture and Plant Health Division of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are regularly inspecting trees for it or any signs of it. If you see an insect that looks like it, try to capture it alive and call us at the number below. If you see suspicious exit holes please contact your local plant health inspector or our Division Headquarters below. Exit holes are generally on roots that are near the ground surface as in the Picture below, or on the lower 20cm of the trunk of the tree.



Picture 3: Exit Holes with sawdust
(Courtesy of EPPO)

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Further symptoms and information on the pest can be viewed on the website of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) by clicking on the links below.

[Anoplophora chinensis Data Sheet](#)

[Anoplophora chinensis Images](#)

[Anoplophora chinensis in Lombardy](#)