

PINHOLE INFORMATION

Pinworm Beetle (Platypodidae)

DESCRIPTION

The Pinhole Borer Beetle will only attack standing trees or wet logs. They attack both softwoods and hardwoods, where adult beetles bore into the wet timber, feeding upon the mould fungus which grows on the damp tunnel walls. As the timber dries out, conversion takes place, the fungus ceases to grow and in turn the insects starve to death.

RECOGNITION

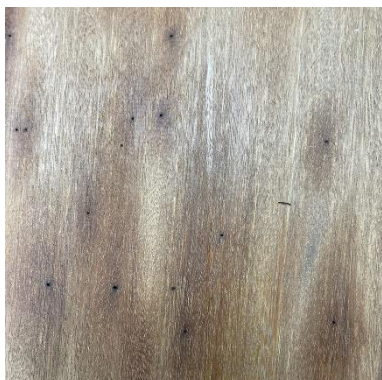
Occasionally the damage caused by these insects can be seen in timbers used for joinery or structural work in houses.

The damage can be recognised by the clean-cut circular holes, which can vary in diameter from 0.5mm - 3mm according to species of beetle and sections of usually dark stained tunnels, free of bore dust running mainly across the grain. The adult beetles are rarely seen.

Dried timber showing these holes can be safely used with the knowledge that there is not risk of any spread of attack to other timbers. The presence of these holes in scattered groups, have no significant effect upon the strength of the timber for structural use.

REMEDIAL TREATMENT

No treatment is necessary to eradicate the insects as they have already died in the dried out timber.



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