

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (*Euwallacea sp.*) vectoring Fusarium Dieback (*Fusarium sp.*)

Distribution and species status: Polyphagous shot hole borer (PSHB) is native to Asia. Morphologically it can not be distinguished from a close related Tea shot hole borer (*Euwallacea fornicatus*), and may be separated through DNA sequencing. PSHB vectors a *Fusarium* fungus which was first recorded on avocados in Israel and recently on various host plants in California. PSHB and *Fusarium* fungus are both believed to be new, unnamed species and need to be formally described.

Hosts and damage: Recorded on Avocado, Big leaf maple, Box elder, California coast live oak, California sycamore, Castor bean, Coral tree, English oak, Liquidambar, Silk tree, etc. *Fusarium sp.* fungus causes discoloration of the leaves, defoliation and dieback of branches. Darkened, stained bark or white powdery exudates are often present around beetle exit holes. Tunneling activities of PSHB may weaken branches and can provide entry points for secondary pests.

Identification: The female (1.9-2.3mm) is dark brown to almost black. Elytra 1.2 times as long as wide with pointed granules on posterior surface. Pronotum is subcircular, displaying rounded, serrated anterior margin. Procoxae are contiguous. Males are smaller (1.5-1.67mm), wingless and have brown color of the body.



Female



Male



Various infected host trees