

Mini data sheet on *Pseudips mexicanus*
(Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) - Monterey pine engraver

Added to the EPPO Alert List in 2024 - Deleted in 2026

Reasons for deletion:

An EPPO PRA was conducted on *Pseudips mexicanus* and concluded that there was no evidence of economic, environmental and social impact. In 2026, the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations agreed that it could be deleted, considering that sufficient alert has been given.

Why: *Pseudips mexicanus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae - Monterey pine engraver) is a Central American bark beetle of pine trees. It was recently recorded for the first time out of its native range: it was trapped in Ireland (EPPO RS 2024/004) and intercepted in trade. Considering these recent findings in different parts of the world, the EPPO Secretariat considered that *P. mexicanus* could usefully be added to the EPPO Alert List. Since the addition of *P. mexicanus* to the EPPO Alert List, a taxonomic revision of the genus *Pseudips* has taken place. It concluded that *P. mexicanus* and *P. radiatae* are two distinct species, and that *P. mexicanus* is restricted to Mexico and Guatemala, and that records from the USA and Canada correspond to *P. radiatae*. The specimens trapped in Ireland have been confirmed to be *P. mexicanus*.

Where: *P. mexicanus* originates from Mexico and Guatemala.

EPPO Region: Ireland (trapped specimens, no breeding population has been found).

North America: Mexico.

Central America: Guatemala.

On which plants: *P. mexicanus* has been recorded attacking a wide range of pine tree species (*Pinus* spp.) in its native region, including some species that are widely planted in the EPPO region such as *P. ponderosa*.

Damage: *P. mexicanus* is a bark beetle. Damage is due to the galleries under the bark where the pest reproduces, and larvae develop. Reddish sawdust can be observed at the surface of the bark.

P. mexicanus is mainly reported to infest weakened trees but can also be a primary pest causing death of small to medium size trees. *P. mexicanus* has up to 7 generations in Mexico. Adults are 3.5 to 5 mm long, bright dark brown. There are 4 larval stages. The species can overwinter in both larval and adult stages.

Dissemination: Flight of adults is probably the main means of movement and dispersal to new plants and new areas over short distances but specific data on flying distance is lacking. Over long distances, *P. mexicanus* can be transported on plant material.

Pathways: Host plants for planting, wood, wood chips, wood packaging material, bark. *P. mexicanus* has been intercepted in trade on wood in the USA. It may be noted that in many EPPO countries (including the EU) requirements already apply to relevant commodities (e.g. prohibition of import of conifer wood and plants for planting over 3 m in height, originating from non-European countries).

Possible risks: *P. mexicanus* can attack a wide range of pine species that are widely planted in the EPPO region, though attacks on native European pines have not yet been documented. Although this is not documented for *P. mexicanus*, bark beetles may also act as vectors of pathogens: for example in California (US), the related species *P. radiatae* has been shown

to transmit *Fusarium subglutinans*, causing pitch canker. *P. mexicanus* has been intercepted in trade, thus showing that pathways of entry do exist, but more data on its biology is needed to evaluate its potential of establishment in the EPPO region.

Sources

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