EPPO Datasheet: *Apriona germari*

Last updated: 2019-06-27

IDENTITY

Preferred name: *Apriona germari*
Authority: (Hope)
Taxonomic position: Animalia: Arthropoda: Hexapoda: Insecta: Coleoptera: Cerambycidae
Other scientific names: *Apriona cribata* Thompson, *Apriona germarii* (Hope), *Lamia germari* Hope
Common names: brown mulberry longhorn beetle, jackfruit longhorn beetle, longhorn stem borer, mulberry longicorn beetle
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EPPO Categorization: A1 list
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EU Categorization: Quarantine pest ((EU) 2019/2072 Annex II A)
EPPO Code: APRIGE



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HOSTS

The main hosts of *A. germari* include plants from nineteen families and thirty-six genera of plants such as Salicaceae, Moraceae, Ulmaceae and Rosaceae (Wang Yongjun *et al*., 1986). The following hosts are the most reported in the literature: mulberry (*Morus* spp.), poplar (*Populus* spp.), willow (*Salix* spp.), apple (*Malus* spp.), fig (*Ficus carica*), paper mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*), jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) and pagoda tree (*Sophora japonica*). It should also be noted that the host range has two elements: the species on which larvae can develop to maturity and the species on which adults carry out their maturation feeding. Mulberry, paper mulberry and wolfberry (*Lycium barbarum*) are considered the main trees for maturation feeding of *A. germari*.

Host list: *Artocarpus chama*, *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Artocarpus integer*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Broussonetia kazinoki*, *Broussonetia papyrifera*, *Cajanus cajan*, *Cajanus*, *Camellia oleifera*, *Carya illinoinensis*, *Celtis sinensis*, *Cinnamomum camphora*, *Citrus x aurantium var. unshiu*, *Citrus x aurantium*, *Citrus*, *Crataegus phaenopyrum*, *Cunninghamia lanceolata*, *Dalbergia*, *Diospyros kaki*, *Eriobotrya japonica*, *Ficus carica*, *Ficus hispida*, *Ficus retusa* , *Firmiana simplex*, *Juglans mandshurica*, *Juglans regia*, *Juglans*, *Lagerstroemia indica*, *Malus asiatica*, *Malus baccata*, *Malus domestica*, *Malus*, *Melia azedarach*, *Morus alba*, *Morus indica*, *Morus macroura*, *Morus*, *Paulownia* , *Pinus massoniana*, *Pinus yunnanensis*, *Platycarya strobilacea*, *Populus alba*, *Populus maximowiczii*, *Populus nigra var. italica*, *Populus tomentosa*, *Populus x canadensis*, *Populus*, *Prunus pseudocerasus*, *Pterocarya stenoptera*, *Punica granatum*, *Pyrus pyrifolia var. culta*, *Pyrus*, *Quercus acuta*, *Quercus*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Rubus*, *Salix babylonica*, *Salix gracilistyla*, *Salix tetrasperma*, *Salix*, *Schima superba*, *Styphnolobium japonicum*, *Triadica sebifera*, *Ulmus pumila*, *Ulmus*, *Vernicia fordii*

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Note: although Japan is mentioned in several publications on *A. germari*, it seems that this pest is not present in that country, but that there may be confusion with *A. japonica*.



Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China (Aomen (Macau), Hainan, Yunnan), India (Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttarakhand), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam

BIOLOGY

In China, the length of the lifecycle varies with climate and latitude. The further north *A. germari* is found, the longer it takes for a generation to develop. It is considered that a single generation takes 2–3 years to develop. Adults emerge between July and October. Females mate and lay eggs 10–15 days after emergence. Eggs are laid under the bark, in oviposition slits chewed out by the female. Larvae feed first in the sapwood and then bore into the heartwood, with small frass expulsion holes made through the bark. Several larvae may be present in the same tree. The overwintering stage is the egg or larva. The pupal stage of *A. germari* occurs between the middle of June and the middle of August.

DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

Symptoms

The adults of *A. germari* eat tender tree bark for maturation feeding and leave irregular scars on the tree. This usually leads to serious damage to twigs (Shimei & Rongwu, 1992).

Larvae of *A. germari* are the most damaging lifestage for the hosts. Resin bleeds can be observed from oviposition holes and larval tunnels in the bark. Compared with other genera, larva of *A. germari* are easier to detect as while boring down along the heartwood of trunk, they have to bore transverse tunnels for frass ejection leaving a row of frass expulsion holes outside the trunk. Usually, these round holes are on the same side of the trunk and both the diameters of holes and the distances between two adjacent holes gradually increases from the top to the bottom of the tree. Frass accumulates at the base of the tree.

Morphology

Eggs

About 5–7 mm long, oval, yellow white, slightly curved with a narrow front-end.

Larva

The larva is a legless grub up to 76 mm long when fully grown. It is creamy white in colour, with a chitinized brown mark on the prothorax, its width can reach 13 mm.

Pupa

Fusiform, yellow or yellow-white and 50 mm long. Antennae extend backward and curving at the end and its wings reach the third abdominal segment.

Adult

Typically cerambycid in shape, 26–51 mm in length, 8–16 mm in width. It is generally black and completely covered with an orangy-brown to greenish-yellow pubescence. Its centre point, lateral margin and edge of elytrum usually have a grey narrow brim. The antenna of female is slightly longer than the body, while the male's antenna length is 2 or 3 segments beyond the body. The base of elytra is densely covered by black shiny nodular particles, which occupy one-fourth to one-third section; the inner and outer end-angle at the end of elytra shows a thorn-like protuberance.

PATHWAYS FOR MOVEMENT

There is not much data on the capacity for natural spread of *A. germari*. A survey carried out in Hebei Province suggested that 400 m was a safe distance from a source site of *A. germari* (Fengxin *et al*., 1997). However, another field survey accompanied with bait revealed that adults of *A. germari* can fly as far as 2500 m for food, although most individuals were caught between 250 and 550 m (Ruitong *et al*., 1998).

This insect can be transported with plants and wood products (including wood, wood packaging, wood chips, firewood) containing bark, moving in international trade. It is regularly intercepted in Europe on wood packaging material from Asia.

PEST SIGNIFICANCE

Economic impact

The main damage associated with *Apriona* spp. is caused by the larvae, which bore into the wood soon after hatching, creating long tunnels. This affects the growth of the trees and decreases the quantity and quality of the timber and longevity of the trees (Shui *et al.*, 2009; Li, 1996) and this causes weakness, which increases the chances of wind break. Trees may die and stems/trunks might be broken. The timber becomes unsuitable for commercial use and entry of fungi and pathogens in the galleries cause discoloration of the wood.

In the area of its present distribution in China, *A. germari* is considered as a serious threat to forest, especially to poplar plantation. In particular, the occurrence of *A. germari* in poplar plantations in the middle and lower reaches of Changjiang River caused serious damage to agriculture and forestry (Ruitong *et al*., 1994). In addition, *A. germari* is also a threat to fruit production, especially to fig in southern Jiangshu Province (Shaolin *et al*., 1997). According to Shuping *et al*. (1999), in China the susceptibility sequence of host trees of *A. germari* are as follow: (1) Moraceae; (2) Salicaceae; (3) Ulmaceae; (4) The main planted fruit tree in North China; and (5) Some other tree species planted for afforestation. In addition to various species of Moraceae, *Populus tomentosa, Malus pumila, Malus spectabilis* and *Malus asiatica* are among the most susceptible tree species.

A. germari can attack healthy trees as well as trees under stress.

Control

Control measures include chemical control (including sprays or microcapsules targeting the adults or eggs and young larvae, and injections methods targeting older larvae in trunks and branches), physical control (removing host trees such as mulberry or paper mulberry on which maturation feeding could occur, or manually catching and killing adults), and biological control (injection of *Beauvaria bassiana* into larval holes, use of parasitic nematodes such as *Steinernema pravassos* and *Heterorhabditis* spp.). Cultural practices such as sanitation felling (i.e. destruction of

damaged and infested plants, or pruning), or use of trap trees, as well as methods to maintain tree vigour help reduce damage.

Natural enemies include the parasitic wasps *Aprostocetus prolixus* on eggs and *Dastarcus helophoroides* on larvae and pupae, as well as *Iphiaulax imposter* and *Eleonoria heivan, Aprostocetus fukutai, Parecerchysius ceresii* and the woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*.

Phytosanitary risk

A. germari is present in an area with an extensive range of different climatic conditions. In areas where *A. germari* could establish, the pest would attack poplars, apple trees, willows and other crops and plants in the natural environment, commercial orchards, gardens, plantations and urban areas. It is expected that the potential damage would be high in the southern part of the EPPO region where the pest is more likely to establish outdoors, especially if it established in the wild on hosts that occurred extensively with or without management (e.g. poplar). Uncertainty on impact is medium to high as it is unclear how host preferences influence the development of populations, and whether specific hosts are needed in the life cycle of the pest for adult maturation (such as mulberry or paper mulberry), and the role of current management measures is not clear.

Environmental impact could be major if the pest reaches forests and other environments where poplar, willow, chestnut, *Crataegus, Robinia* etc. are present. However, there is uncertainty as to the extent to which species belonging to host genera that are present in the PRA area, but not in the area of origin, might be attacked.

The number of interceptions of *A. germari* in wood packaging material despite the implementation of ISPM 15, and the introduction of other wood borers from the same area of origin (e.g. *Anoplophora glabripennis*) into Europe show that there are pathways to disseminate this pest outside its area of origin.

PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Experience with other cerambycid beetles in the EPPO region showed that their eradication once introduced is very difficult. Therefore priority should be given to prevent their entry.

Suggested phytosanitary measures for commodities of host plants include origin from a pest-free area, or a pest-free site under physical protection or treatment (heat or irradiation for wood, and chipped to a size smaller than 3 cm for wood chips). Wood packaging material should be treated according to ISPM 15.

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Datasheet history

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