



Technical Notice 12th December 2023

Department national surveys confirm finding of Monterey Pine Engraver in Ireland.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) has announced the first findings in Ireland of a non-European bark beetle *Pseudips mexicanus* known as the Monterey Pine Engraver. As part of the Department's ongoing national surveys, a total of 93 individuals of *Pseudips mexicanus* have been found in six traps in forest locations in a confined area in Co. Clare.

The beetles were found only in bark beetle Theysohn traps, which have been used for many years here in our annual bark beetle surveys. No findings have been made in trees. The Department has found no evidence of any breeding insects nor detected any evidence of damage by *P. mexicanus*.

This beetle is not thought to be a pest of economic significance for Ireland and its finding will not affect the movement of Irish spruce logs and timber and other non-pine species.

The Monterey Pine Engraver is naturally found in a range from Alaska to Central America and is found exclusively in pine (*Pinus*) species. Scientific literature on the Monterey pine engraver is limited. However it is not considered an aggressive pest in its natural range and is typically regarded as a secondary pest of stressed, dead or dying trees. The beetle has previously been intercepted in Europe associated with wood packaging material but is not known to occur in Europe. The pathway of introduction into Ireland is under investigation. Molecular diagnostic work has indicated that the beetles found in Co. Clare are of Mexican origin.

Although Monterey Pine Engraver is not specifically named in legislation, all non-European *Scolytinae* (bark beetles) are treated as Union Quarantine Pests (UQP) under the Plant Health Regulation 2016/2031 [Implementing Regulation 2019/2072](#) in Annex II Part A, regardless of the level of threat associated with a particular species. Member States must follow certain procedures set out in the [Plant Health Regulation 2016/2031](#) on the confirmation of a UQP including the establishment of a demarcated area. Accordingly, the Department has established the Monterey Pine Engraver Demarcated Area, with a radius of 10km from the traps where beetles were captured.

Intensive surveys are being carried out in this area. Restrictions will apply to the felling and movement of pine species from this area. This is to ensure that untreated wood and wood products of *Pinus* can only leave the demarcated area under the control of the Department for treatment and not for direct trade to other parts of the island or for export. Forest owners with pine in the demarcated area are being contacted directly by the Department with further information.

See the Department pest factsheet for more information: [Pseudips mexicanus factsheet](#)

Any questions in relation to this notice may be directed to the following email address:
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