

Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB)

What is the **SHOT-HOLE BORER?**



I Invasive beetle arrives



The Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB) is a **tiny invasive black beetle from Asia** that has recently arrived in South Africa.



SMALLER
THAN A
SESAME SEED

2 mm
IN
LENGTH



2 Beetles invade trees

The PSHB beetle makes tunnels, or galleries, in the trunks and branches of host trees and lays its eggs inside.



3 Fungus sets in...

FUSARIUM DIEBACK

The female beetles carry a fungus (*Fusarium euwallaceae*) from tree to tree that grows in their tunnels.



Adult beetles and their larvae depend on the fungus for food.

A tree with dieback will have over 100 000 beetles in tunnels

4 Trees are dying!

The fungus in the tunnels is really bad for trees as it disrupts the flow of water and nutrients to the tree causing branch dieback and ultimately the death of the tree.



WHAT TREES ARE AT RISK?

- The beetles attack **exotic** as well as **indigenous** trees.
- Oak trees and old drought stressed trees are at high risk.

For a list of species affected in SA to date, go to:
<http://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/pshb>

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Look for these signs of attack



1

Entry-holes to the beetle tunnels

- Round
- Less than 2mm wide

2

Tree symptoms

- Dark, wet staining
- Thick gumming
- Streaks of white powder or fine sawdust coming from holes.

3

Dieback

Dead branches with wilting leaves may be a sign of infection by the Fusarium Dieback disease.

Symptoms are unique to each tree species

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Where do I report sightings?



PLEASE REPORT SIGHTINGS AS FOLLOWS:

On CapeNature Nature Reserves to: pshb@capenature.co.za

Within the City of Cape Town municipal area via the online tool on:

<https://www.capetowninvasives.org.za/>

Sightings in any other areas to be reported to FABI

(Forestry and Agriculture Biotechnology Institute) at: <https://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/>



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