

Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (*Euwallacea* sp.) and Fusarium dieback (*Fusarium euwallaceae*)

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PHSB) and Fusarium dieback is a new insect-disease complex threatening South Africa. The ambrosia beetle has a wide host range and can complete development in >20 species, including avocado. The beetle has been detected on London Plane trees and Castor oil plant in Pietermaritzburg and Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.



Photo: G. Arakelian

The adult female is about 2.6mm long. Males are smaller and flightless.



Penetration spot on London Plane tree



External symptoms on London Plane tree



Removal of cambial tissue exposing fungal damage



High levels of attack on Castor oil plant



Discolouration caused by fungal colonisation



Split longitudinally to show galleries and fungal damage

If you think PSHB is affecting trees in a landscape or area you manage, please contact: Trudy Paap trudy.paap@fabi.up.ac.za