

Acalolepta aesthetica (Olliff)

A longhorned beetle

HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
QUICK PEST FACT SHEET

A single adult *Acalolepta aesthetica* (Olliff) was first collected on the window screen of a resident of Hawaiian Acres, Puna, Hawaii in 2009. Additional beetles were not recovered until 2013 and the first signs of damage to host trees were not discovered until 2014.

A. aesthetica is a beetle in the family Cerambycidae (longhorned beetles). Longhorned beetle adults are variable in feeding behavior- many either do not feed, or feed minimally on various plant parts (leaves, flowers, bark, etc.). Many species of longhorned beetle larvae feed within dead, dying, or decaying wood, however, some may attack living host plants.

A. aesthetica should not be confused with *Anoplophora glabripennis*, the Asian longhorned beetle or ALB.

ORIGIN

- Australia, Queensland

KNOWN DISTRIBUTION IN HAWAII

- Hawaii Island, Lower Puna District
 - Pahoia
 - Hawaiian Acres
 - Orchidland
 - Keaau
 - Kurtistown

DESCRIPTION

ADULTS

- 2 cm - 4.5 cm ($\frac{3}{4}$ in – $1\frac{13}{16}$ in)
- Antennae over 1-2 times the length of its body
- Dark brown
- No patterns or spots on body
- Two spines on sides of pronotum

LARVAE

- Legless
- Cream-colored
- can reach lengths of over 5.75 cm ($\sim 2\frac{1}{3}$ in)



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PEST STATUS

- *A. aesthetica* was not considered a pest in its native Australia
- *A. aesthetica* became a new pest after its arrival in Hawaii and it continues to exhibit its significant pest potential

CONFIRMED HOSTS IN HAWAII

These plants have been verified by HDOA as larval hosts

- Kukui (*Aleurites moluccanus*)
- Breadfruit (*Artocarpus altilis*)
- Various citrus (*Citrus* spp.)
- Queen sago palm (*Cycas circinalis*)
- Cacao (*Theobroma cacao*)

UNVERIFIED HOSTS IN HAWAII

These plants either exhibited symptoms of infestation or adult emergence

- Gunpowder tree (*Trema orientalis*)- probable host, needs verification
- Avocado (*Persea americana*)- possible host, needs verification

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF INFESTATION

- Sap oozing at oviposition sites
- Girdling on trunk
- Sawdust-like frass being pushed out of holes of trunk
- Round exit holes about 1.25 cm (½ in)
- Branch dieback and dropping

Because *A. aesthetica* was not considered an economically important pest, based on its behavior in Australia, information on the biology and management of this species remains unknown.

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IF YOU FIND AN ADULT BEETLE

Collect the beetle and contain it in a secure container. Take clear digital photos and record the location, date, person whom collected the beetle, and describe how you found the beetle: if you found it on a specific plant, what plant? Did you find it resting on your wall? Was this at night or during the day? Email the photos and the information to: HDOA.PPC@HAWAII.GOV



IF YOU SUSPECT DAMAGE TO HOST PLANTS BY LARVAL FEEDING

Take many clear digital photos of the damage. Use an object (coin, ruler) next to any emergence holes for a size reference. Record the location of the infestation, date observed, and what infestation symptoms you saw.

Email the photos and the information to: HDOA.PPC@HAWAII.GOV

