Mosquitoes and mosquito wrigglers

Mosquito wrigglers are the life stage most likely to be found onboard. They live in pools of fresh or brackish water. Adults often hide in dark, protected areas and lay their eggs (which look like black specks of pepper) where water pools. Eggs can remain viable for up to a year.

Borers

Borers can live inside plant stems or timber. Look for any holes or frass (like sawdust).

Other plant pests

Exotic plant pests such as insects or mites can harbour unwanted plant diseases, and if introduced into Australia they could multiply rapidly in the absence of their usual parasites and predators. They can be found on any part of a plant, including roots, stems, leaves or flowers, and can sometimes be hidden beneath a scale or wax covering.

Four different plant pests highly magnified

Mites and some insects may be microscopic, but their presence may be indicated by leaves with webbing, marks, or unusual growth.

This biosphere captures patterns within life using high-contrast photography to focus on the form, structure and detail of some of the objects that DAFF encounters.

Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Pest Alert!

Do you have stowaways on board?

Biosecurity

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Phone 1300 004 605

Email maritimeNCC@daff.gov.au

Web daff.gov.au/biosecurity/quarantine/pests-diseases

BIO459_0712

Be aware of biosecurity risks on board your ship

The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) works closely with other governments, industry and the community to manage Australia's biosecurity system and reduce the risk of unwanted pests and diseases entering and establishing in Australia.

Thanks to our strong biosecurity system and relative isolation, Australia has remained free of many of the pests and diseases present in other parts of the world. We need to maintain a strong biosecurity system to protect our primary production industries and our unique natural environment from the severe and negative impacts of these unwanted pests and diseases.

As ship crew you are in a good position to alert us to the presence of these pests and insects - before they come into Australia. This guide is designed to help you identify pests most likely to stowaway on board a large sea vessel.

Do you have stowaways on board?

Be on the lookout for any indications of pests, including:

- timber with holes or frass
- infested foodstuffs
- plants with unusual marks or damage
- pale furry lumps (egg masses) on any surface
- any live animal or insect.

If you encounter any stowaway insects or animals, please collect and contain them, where safe to do so, and bring these to the attention of biosecurity officers as soon as possible. Insects can be killed with a knock-down spray to ensure they will not escape.

Call 1300 004 605

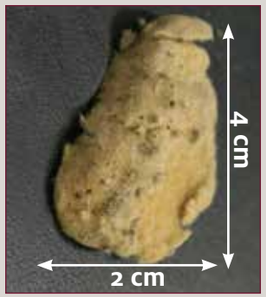
Asian Gypsy Moth

The Asian Gypsy moth is a major threat to Australia's horticulture and forestry industries, native forests and urban plants.

Female

Male

Adult moths are pale with black marks and have a wingspan of between 3 cm and 7 cm. Larvae are covered by tufts of long hair, and can be dispersed on the wind.



Egg masses are laid on surfaces near lights when ships dock at temperate Asian ports (China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and Russia) between May and October.

These masses contain up to 1200 eggs that are covered in yellow scales, and can remain viable for months.

Burnt Pine Longicorn Beetle

Burnt Pine Longicorn beetles lay their eggs into pine and spruce trees where their larvae bore into the timber. This species is found in New Zealand and can fly aboard or can be brought in with cargo.

Longicorn beetles are active and attracted to lights on summer nights between November and March, sheltering in crevices during daylight hours. Adults can be between 1 cm and 3 cm in length, are dark brown and have long antennae.

Khapra Beetle

Khapra beetles are a damaging pest of dried plant and animal products. They can be brought onto vessels in infested dry provisions such as grains, nuts, herbs and spices.

Hairy larval skins of up to 5 mm long are shed by the immature beetle and can indicate their presence.

Khapra Beetle and larva in rice grains

Honey Bees

Exotic honey bees may be aggressive, and the parasites and diseases they carry pose a significant threat to Australia's honey and agricultural industries.

Honey Bee with the highly destructive Varroa mite on its back

Bees can be between 1 cm and 2 cm in length, are hairy and often patterned with black and yellow/orange markings.

Wax combs or insects flying to and from a nest can indicate the presence of bees. Nests may be found underneath a structure or in hollow spaces. Please do not disturb any colonies of bees, as these require specialist treatment.