



EUCALYPTUS LEAF BEETLE

PAROPSISTERNA BEATA

EUCALYPTUS LEAF BEETLE FACTS

- » Native to Australia.
- » Larvae can strip trees of young leaves and shoots.
- » Eucalypt species trees are the only known hosts in New Zealand.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION

- » Detected in Whiteman's Valley, Upper Hutt, in August 2012.
- » The detection of several eggs, larvae and adults indicates that a breeding population may exist in the area.
- » MPI has not found beetles outside the 3km radius of the original detection site.

IMPACTS

- » Eucalyptus leaf beetle is not a major pest in commercial eucalyptus plantations in Australia, but some related species cause significant damage to eucalyptus species.
- » The impact of the Eucalyptus beetle in New Zealand is unknown. It may cause moderate impact to New Zealand eucalyptus trees due to the absence of natural enemies to control the population.

WHAT MPI IS DOING ABOUT IT

- » MPI aims to eradicate the beetle by targeted aerial treatment (by helicopter).
- » There will be two treatment applications during mid to late April to the small number (40–50) of affected trees. There will be 10 days between each application.
- » The aerial spray contains a safe insecticide called alpha-cypermethrin. It is commonly used on many insect pests (such as ants and spiders) in and around buildings and houses. The insecticide is also sprayed on food crops such as beans, brassicas (e.g. broccoli and cabbages), tomatoes, and sweetcorn.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- » Please report sightings of this beetle to MPI by ringing the Ministry's pest and disease hotline **0800 80 99 66**.
- » It is helpful to take photos, collect samples and record the location where it was detected.



Adults are large (about 1cm), dark brown or black with large red spots. Adults can be found on tree trunks, under bark or on leaves. They are likely to shelter overwinter in bark crevices, or under stones and leaves on the ground. Adults spread by flying short distances.



Larvae are medium to large (about 0.4 – 0.8 cm), yellow and brown, with long black hairs. Larvae are found on the leaves of trees.

Photos courtesy of MPI, PHEL

www.mpi.govt.nz
0800 80 99 66

April 2013