

# DAFM Plant Pest Factsheet

## *Aromia bungii* Red necked longicorn

EU  
Priority  
Pest!



Fig 1: Adult *Aromia bungii* on *Prunus* tree bark

### Pest Characteristics

- **Pest:** *Aromia bungii*
- **Common name:** Red necked longicorn
- **Hosts:** *Aromia bungii* is considered to be a major threat to several species of *Prunus* including the fruit tree *P. domestica* (plum) and *P. avium* (wild cherry) both of which are common throughout Ireland.
- **Invasive Risk:** The pest has shown considerable capacity to spread from its native Asian range into new territories on infested *Prunus* commodities. Its recent appearance in the EU has proven difficult to eradicate. The pest is now regarded as one of the top 20 High Priority regulated quarantine plant pests facing agriculture in the EU.
- **Entry Pathways:** Wood packaging material, wood or wooden products made from *Prunus* species.
- **Impact:** In its native range the pest was mainly associated with infesting old senescent *Prunus* trees. However, in EU populations females prefer laying their eggs on young healthy trees increasing the pests' destructive impact on cultivated *Prunus*.
- **Adaptability:** *Aromia bungii* is likely to establish in the Irish climate, although the lifecycle may take 2-3 years to complete a generation.
- **Symptoms:** Early signs of infestation are accumulations of larval frass (sawdust) often seen at the tree base or below the larval entry bore holes in the tree bark (Fig 2). Heavy infestations can result in tree mortality or an appearance of dying/decaying and a loss of fruit crop.

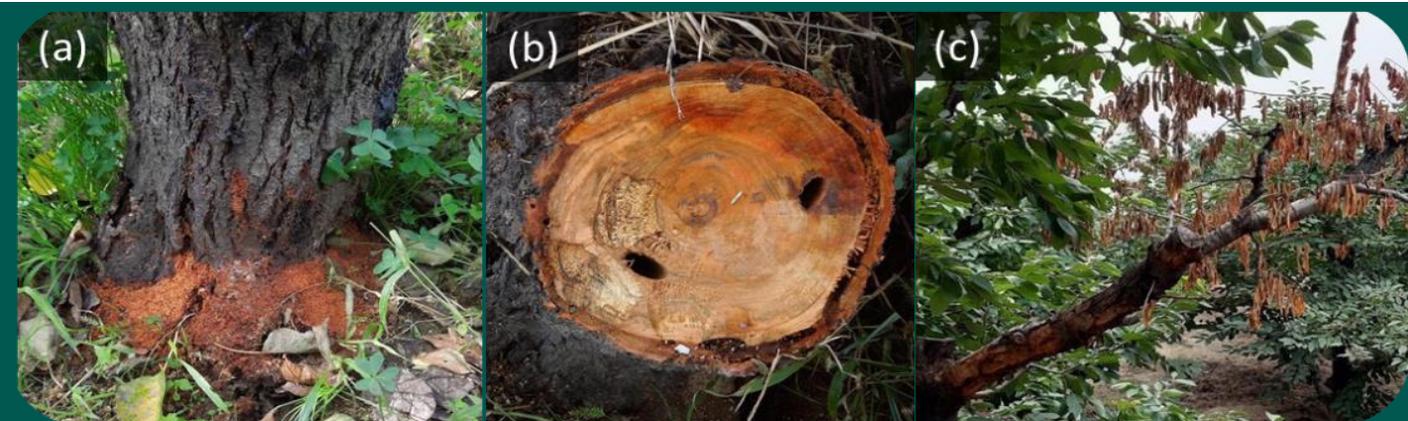


Fig 2: Symptoms: accumulation of frass from larval bore holes (a), gallery in tree stem (b), branch dieback (c)



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

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- **Lifecycle:** Adults (size: 23-37 mm long) emerge during the late spring and summer months to mate. Females lay their eggs in tree bark crevices (from the tree stem base up to 2 m above ground level). The hatched larva bore through the tree bark to feed on the interior wood where they undergo 4 developmental stages known as “instars” (larval stage can last up to 36 months in certain climates). The pest over-winters as larvae before developing into a pupae (1-2 months) from which adults emerge.
- **Dispersal:** Adults are capable of flight, though the extent to which natural dispersal takes place via flying is uncertain. Estimates indicate that natural spread may range from between 2-3 km per year.
- **Distribution:** *Aromia bungii* is considered to be native to East Asia (China, North Korea, South Korea, Mongolia, Russia and Vietnam). The pest has successfully recently invaded and established in several new regions such as: Germany (2011), Italy (2012) and Japan (2013) (Fig 3).
- **If suspected:** DAFM Inspectors conduct annual surveys to substantiate Ireland's pest free status for *A. bungii*. If you find a suspected specimen please submit images to DAFM at: [plantpestreport@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:plantpestreport@agriculture.gov.ie)

Photo credits: All images used in Figures 1, 2 and lifecycle were obtained from the EPPO *A. bungii* images repository: <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AROMBU/photos>

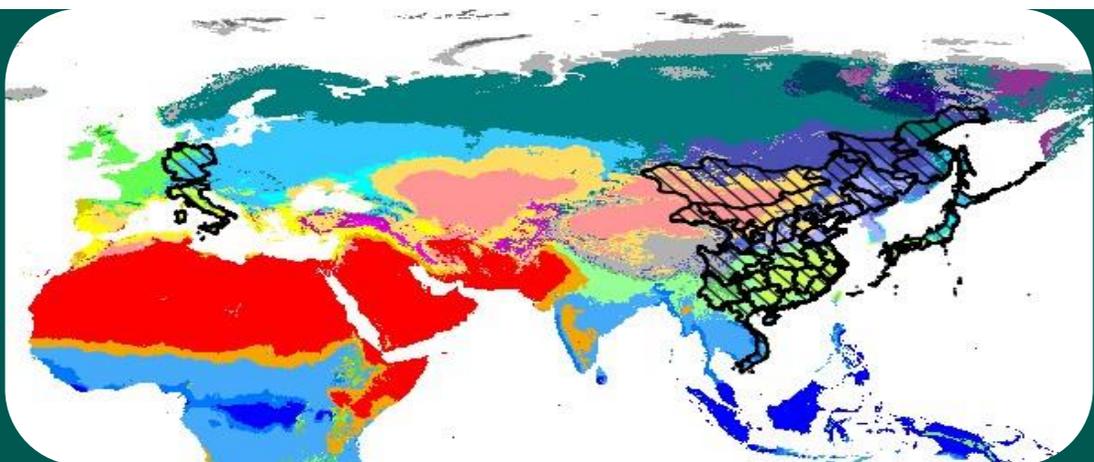


Fig 3: Known world distribution of *A. bungii* (cross hatched areas) overlaid on regional climate classifications

