

Khapra beetle



Plant Health
AUSTRALIA

EXOTIC PEST – CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE IF SUSPECTED

What is khapra beetle?

Khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*) is a serious pest of stored and dry foodstuffs worldwide. Khapra beetle can cause losses of up to 75% from direct feeding on stored product. Infested product also becomes contaminated with beetles, cast skins and hairs from larvae, which can be a health risk and are difficult to remove from storage structures and transport vessels. This beetle is not present in Australia and poses a major threat to Australia's dried fruit, grain and ginger industries.

What does it look like?

Khapra beetle adults are small (2-3 mm long and 1-2 mm wide), brownish in colour with a smooth oval shaped body. There are three transverse bands (markings) of pale coloured hairs on the wing covers. Eggs hatch into small hairy larvae that can grow up to 7 mm long, are reddish brown in colour and darken as they mature. Larvae have characteristic long hairs all over their body, especially at the rear end and can survive without food for over 12 months.

What can it be confused with?

Khapra beetle is almost identical to the warehouse beetle (*Trogoderma variable*), which is established in Australia, and some closely related native beetle species. If you find any beetle or hairy larvae fitting the description of the khapra beetle, have it identified by an expert.

What should I look for?

Khapra beetle will only be found in stored products and around places where stored products are kept or transported. Khapra beetle can also be found between cracks and wall linings of storage containers. It will not be present in the field.

When examining dried fruit samples, characteristic hairy larvae and cast skins are the most likely observable signs.

How does it spread?

Khapra beetles are spread through the movement of stored food products and grain or as contamination of seed, machinery and straw.



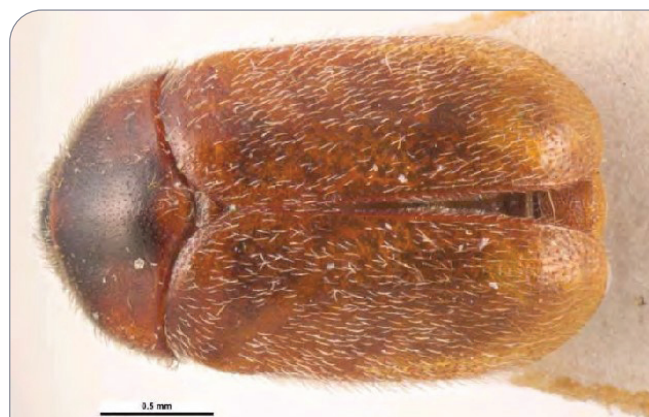
Khapra beetle larvae on a maize kernel

Thebeatsheet



Adult khapra beetle

Simon Hinkley and Ken Walker, Museum Victoria, PaDIL



The adult khapra beetle has a smooth, oval shaped body

Simon Hinkley and Ken Walker, Museum Victoria, PaDIL

Where is it now?

Khapra beetle is native to India, but has spread to many parts of Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. A full list of target risk countries can be found on the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment website https://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/arrival/pests/khapra_beetle

How can I protect my vineyard from khapra beetle?

Check your stored product and storage facilities frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual damage symptoms. Good hygiene measures around storage facilities, including cleaning up spillages will reduce the risk of storage pest infestations. Make sure you are familiar with common pests so you can tell if you see something different.

If you see anything unusual, call the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline** on **1800 084 881**.



Khapra beetle adults, larvae and cast skins in stored grain

Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development Archive, Bugwood.org



Khapra beetle larvae

California Department of Agriculture

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CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

1800 084 881

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