

Invasive beetles found in the Santa Cruz Mountains



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A Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer, which is smaller than a sesame seed, next to the point of a knife in the hand of Dr. Akif Eskalen on Pasadena Glen Road in Pasadena on DECEMBER 19, 2013. The beetle bores its maze like tunnel into the tree and lays its egg inside. Scientists from UC Riverside are looking for trees in Pasadena infected by the Borer, an invasive beetle in Southern California in an attempt to discover how far they have spread and how they may defeat the pest which has killed this tree and many others. The beetle which is about 1/10th of an inch long, bores into the trees and spreads a fungus that attacks the vascular tissue of the tree and disrupts water and nutrient flow. (Photo by Bob Chamberlin/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images)
SOURCE: Bob Chamberlin

FELTON, Calif. —

The County of Santa Cruz says there is evidence of an invasive beetle detected in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

The Santa Cruz County Department of Agriculture and the University of California Cooperative Extension are currently monitoring the situation involving the non-native invasive shothole borer beetle spotted on Zayante Creek south of Graham Hill Road.

They are also surveying the area to understand the infestation.

The county says these invasive beetles are small and can damage or kill host trees. The shothole borer beetle was also recently found in the Coyote Creek area of San Jose.

The county says that eradicating the invasive species is difficult. However, the public can assist by "Checking trees for sign of infestation, which include small holes in trees that are perfectly round and roughly the size of the tip of a ballpoint pen. Other signs can include wet staining, gumming, frass, boring dust and sugary buildup around entry and exit holes," per the county.

You can help identify potential infestation by taking the [ISHB Detection Assessment](#). You can also report damage to your tree by calling the Santa Cruz County Department of Agriculture at 831-763-8080.