



Borers Attacking Decaying Wood

Hadrobregmus australiensis

Hadrobregmus australiensis attacks both softwoods and hardwoods, but only when conditions are conducive to decay by wood-rotting fungi. The adult beetle is similar in form to the furniture beetle *A. punctatum* but is about twice the size (about 7-8mm) and rather darker, being almost black.

The emergence holes are round and unstained like those of the furniture beetle, but are appreciably larger. Attack is often confined to sapwood, but when the heartwood has been softened by wood-rotting Fungi, attack will spread to it also. The frass produced by the Larvae is powdery with the appearance of being dirt, and tends to stick together in the tunnels because of the moisture which is usually associated with the decay. Once the moist conditions conducive to decay have been removed and the decay arrested, the attack will cease.



Softwood flooring revealing extensive *Hadrobregmus Australiensis* larval channeling. Note fungal growth on timber surface indicating conditions conducive to decay.