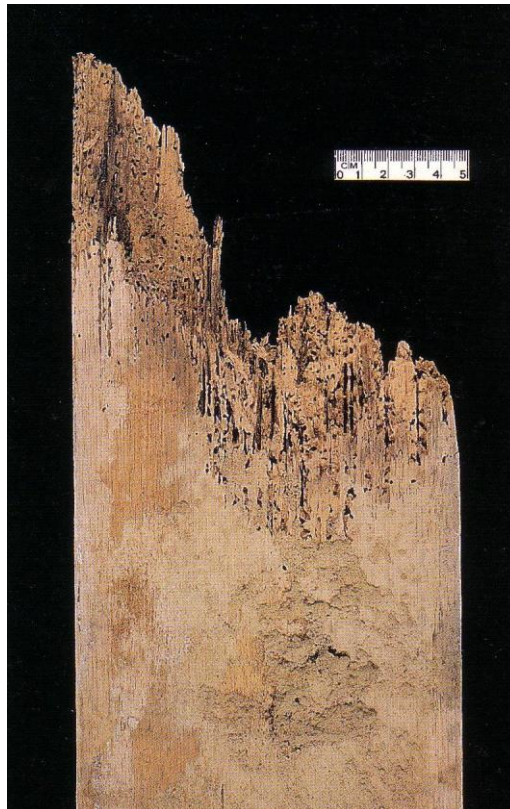




Borers Attacking Decaying Wood

Pentarthrum Australe

Like *Hadrobregmus australiensis*, *Pentarthrum australe* attacks both softwoods and hardwoods, but only when conditions are conducive to decay by wood-rotting fungi. This beetle belongs to the weevil family (Curculionidae). It is almost cylindrical and the front of the head is prolonged into a short snout or rostrum. *Pentarthrum australe* is 4 – 5 mm long and varies from dark reddish-brown to black. The emergence holes made by the adult beetles are roughly circular, with ragged or indistinct margins. The frass produced by the larvae is much finer in texture and the particles are rounder than *A. punctatum* frass. Damp decaying wood, particularly in badly ventilated conditions, is essential in the life cycle of *Pentarthrum australe*. Infestations of *Pentarthrum australe* are not known to spread into timber which is not suffering from at least the early stages of fungal decay. Removal of the moisture source, which is necessary for fungi to decay wood, will eventually control this wood-boring weevil.



Piece of hardwood timber attacked by *Pentarthrum australe*. Attack ceased when conditions inside the timber were not conducive to fungal decay.