

***Ambrosiodmus rubricollis* (Eichhoff) (Coleoptera; Curculionidae; Scolytinae) associated with young Tasmanian blue gum trees**

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Abstract

Eucalypts are among the most widely planted forest trees in the world, and outside their native Australian range, the main arthropod pests are sap-sucking insects, defoliators, gall-making insects and xylophagous beetles. We report on a new association between a polyphagous wood-boring beetle and Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus* Labill.) in Central Portugal. Unidentified wood-boring insects were found attacking two three-year-old *E. globulus* trees showing signs of decline among otherwise healthy trees in a commercial plantation, in June 2018. Declining trees presented dead twigs and branches, and recently developed epicormic sprouts evident on the trunks. Insects emerging from logs were identified as *Ambrosiodmus rubricollis* (Eichhoff), a species native to eastern and southern Asia, with the taxonomic identification validated by molecular analysis. To our knowledge, this is the first record of *A. rubricollis* associated with a eucalypt species worldwide. It is not clear whether the beetles played any significant role on the decline of the trees, but *Ambrosiodmus* may be potential pests for several tree and shrub species in Europe, as these beetles can transport pathogenic fungi.