



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES**  
**COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM**

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**PLANT INSPECTION ADVISORY**

NO. 2-19-2016

**DATE:** February 19, 2016  
**TO:** Bureau of Plant & Apiary Inspectors and Supervisors  
**SUBJECT: Beetle Infested Wood Products**

Recent detections of actionable long horned beetles and powder post beetles have resulted from inspections at pet stores throughout Florida on wooden chew toys for rabbits and rodents. These beetles pose a serious risk to Florida and the United States.

During your pet store, hobby store and garden center inspection activities, please keep a look out for all wood boring pest. Samples should be taken and submitted on all beetles detected.

**The following pages to this advisory is a BOLO concerning this pest and survey techniques**

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Division of Plant Industry**Regulatory Incident: Pet wooden chew toys for rabbits and rodents**

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DPI inspector Lisa Hassell (Nassau County) recently found wood borer pupae in Chinese stick bundles sold for rabbit chew toys in a local Pet Supermarket as Mini Munch and Mega Munch (Figure 1), in the Tea Time, Critter Ware line of products from Ware Manufacturing Inc. Further investigation by Lisa and other inspectors around the state have produced 3 genera of Cerambycidae (long horned beetles) and 2 genera of Bostrichidae (powder post beetles) (Figures 2–6). Four of these genera do not occur in the New World. This diversity attests to the risks associated with this avenue of introduction.

Check any pet store selling wooden stick chew toys. Also, wood products with bark are imported for many reasons. Consider checking other stores selling sticks in any form, including garden stakes (often bamboo), hobby store artistic decorations, etc.

How to survey? Look for any wooden product with signs of damage: emergence holes, sawdust or frass in the bag or on the counter under the product, feel for soft spots (often galleries are just under the surface), or gently try to break the stick. Using a knife, gently peel into the soft spot or follow burrows to see if there are any current occupants. If a stick easily breaks, there was a weak spot usually associated with a burrow or other damage. Look for insects, both adults or larvae, in these burrows.

Preserve any specimens found following standard procedures. Depending on the size of the product, double-bag a good sample of the sticks for us to continue looking for insects and submit as usual.

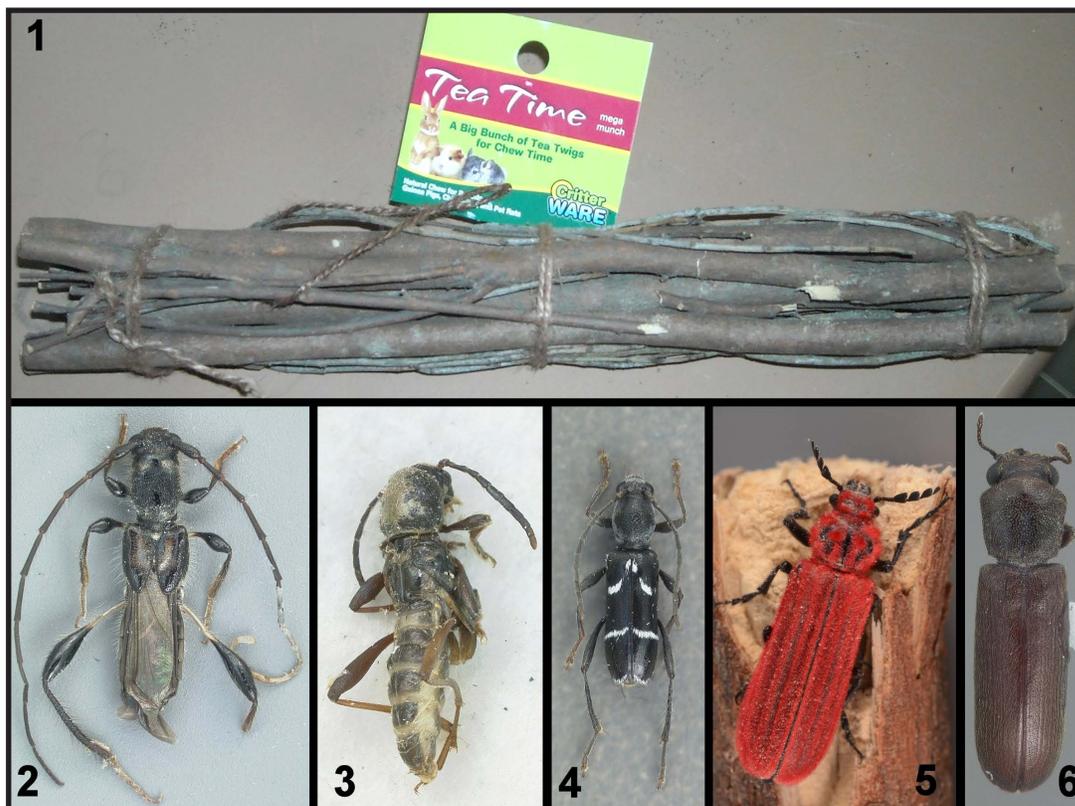


Figure 1. Pet chews (bundle of sticks) for rabbit and other rodents, available in many pet store chains. Figures 2–6. Beetles found to date (8 February 2016) in Chinese rodent chew sticks. 2) *Glaphyra* sp. (Body Length = 9 mm). 3) *Chlorophorus* sp. (failed pupa-adult transformation, L= 9 mm). 4) *Amamiclytus* sp. (L= 4.5 mm). 5) *Coccographis nigrorubra* Lesne (L= 15 mm). 6) *Lyctus* sp. (L= 5 mm).