

# Stephanopachys linearis

**Description:** *Stephanopachys linearis* is a dark brown or black beetle 4 to 6 mm in length. Its body shape is cylindrical. The pronotum is rough and the elytra have a shiny surface and relatively dense pitting. They are similar to bark beetles in appearance.

**Life cycle:** Adults are active for most of the summer. The larvae live inside the bark for one to two years and pupate in an oval pupation chamber in spring.

**Food:** Bark of scorched conifers.

**Tree species:** Spruce and pine.

**Decaying wood type:** Spruce and pine snags damaged by fire. The species does not attack healthy living trees or damage timber.

**Habitats:** Forest fire sites.

**Distribution:** The species occurs in the boreal zone and, further south, in conifer forests of mountainous regions. In Finland, rarely in eastern parts of the country.

**Status:** Near-threatened.

**Status under legislation:** Protected, listed in EU Habitats Directive Annex II.



## Recommendations for habitat management on forestry land

- In connection with a forest fire, not harvesting fire-damaged sturdy or relatively sturdy spruces or pines (diameter at breast height over 15 cm). Under the Forest Damages Prevention Act, at most 10 cubic metres of damaged spruces with a butt diameter of over 10 cm and at most 20 cubic metres of pines per hectare may be left in the forest.
- Leaving retention trees on sites to be burned.
- Prescribed burning of felled areas and retention tree groups for ecological management purposes. The site to be burned should have sturdy or relatively sturdy spruces or pines.



Prescribed burning of retention tree groups creates dead and carbonised wood. Some of the trees are damaged and take longer to die. *Stephanopachys linearis* benefits from prescribed burning. (Photo Riitta Raatikainen/Finnish Forest Centre)

### Further information:

Mannerkoski, I., 2001. *Stephanopachys linearis* (Kugelann) – havuhuppukuoriainen, slät tallkapuschongbagge – In: Ilmonen, J., Rytteri, T., & Alanen, A. Luontodirektiivin kasvit ja selkärangattomat eläimet. Suomen Natura 2000-ehdotuksen luonnontieteellinen arviointi. Suomen ympäristö 510, Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki, pp. 143–144.