Stephanopachys substriatus

Description: *Stephanopachys substriatus* has a rough surface and spherical body shape, and it is 4 to 6 mm in length. It is dark brown or black in colour. Its pronotum and elytra have tubercles, pits and brown hairs, which make the beetle look rough and dim in colour.

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: Occurs rarely in the boreal zone and, further south, in conifer forests of mountainous regions. In Finland, in central and northern parts of the country.

Status: Near-threatened.

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

Metsäkeskus METSÄHALLITUS Life NATURA 2000 Beetles LIFE

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Recommendations for habitat management on forestry land

- In connection with a forest fire, leaving fire-damaged sturdy or relatively sturdy spruces or pines (diameter at breast height over 15 cm) on the forest fire site. Under the Forest Damages Prevention Act, at most 10 solid cubic metres of damaged spruces with a butt diameter of over 10 cm and at most 20 solid 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.

Stephanopachys substriatus needs carbonised conifers produced in natural forest fires and by prescribed burning. (Photo Mervi Laaksonen/Metsähallitus)

Further information:

Mannerkoski, I., 2001. *Stephanopachys substriatus* (Paykull) – mäntyhuppukuoriainen, grov tallkapuschongbagge – In: Ilmonen, J., Ryttäri, T., & Alanen, A. Luontodirektiivin kasvit ja selkärangattomat eläimet. Suomen Natura 2000-ehdotuksen luonnontieteellinen arviointi. Suomen ympäristö 510, Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki, pp. 144–146.