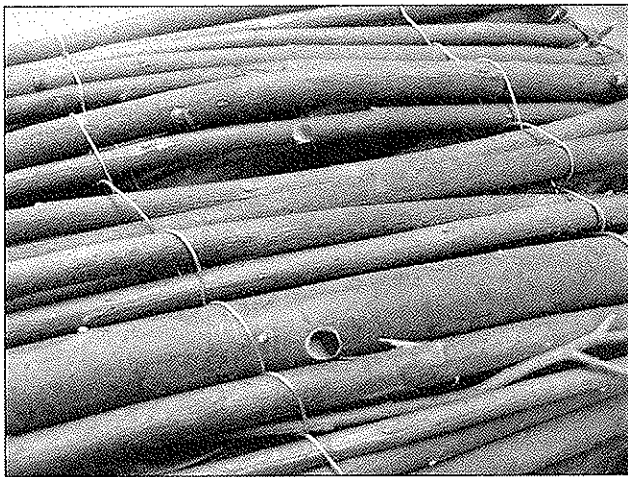


## FERAL FAUNA

### LIVE CHINESE BEETLES IN IMPORTED WOODEN ARTICLES

Community group revegetation projects often use bamboo stakes to mark seedling locations on public land or to support the plastic sleeve of a 'grow-tube'. Hundreds of thousands of these stakes are imported from China. Most carry a certificate stating that they have been treated to control pests in their country of origin. Imagine the concern of a worker at a planting in East Gippsland to find a live larval grub within a stake!

Pests introduced to Australia inside imported wood products could have a devastating effect on live trees and the timber industry. We have enough problems already without bringing in more! (The potential disaster posed by the European house borer was noted in WW 12/2.) Below is another example that arose last year in Perth.



A large company imports 'willow fencing screens' – a roll-up sort of instant fence made of wired together withies (willow twigs) that can be pushed into the ground to hide unsightly areas such as compost bins. When a purchaser noticed frass (wood dust) and exit holes, the presence of live Chinese auger beetles (*Sinoxylon* sp.) was confirmed (see above). This species attacks hardwood timber, and furniture and internal wooden fittings of houses could be at risk of attack if it got established. The product was recalled and, hopefully, only that particular batch of imports was affected.

The recent scare during a landcare planting, however, reminds us to be alert and look carefully at all imported timber products. If you notice anything suspicious, please call DAFWA Pest and Disease Information Service on 1800 084 881 (freecall). You may also bring, or mail, the suspect animal to DAFWA at 3, Baron-Hay Court, Kensington.

#### Stop press:



As this magazine was being put together, photos of a new example were sent to *LFW* from DAFWA. These stakes were purchased in Greenwood and were infested with Chinese auger beetles. Fortunately there were no live animals, so the fumigation process was adequate. But they are not much use for staking anything!

#### New alerts for emerging bird pests

DAFWA has produced three National Animal Pest Alerts to assist in raising public awareness about the potential risk of new invasive species establishing populations in Australia and becoming pests.

The pest alerts, covering the Indian ringneck, house crow and common myna, have been designed to educate the public about the risks these emerging pests pose to agriculture, the environment and social values. This will increase community awareness and encourage vigilance. This is because there is a great reliance on the public to report pest species.

Information and pictures showing these birds in the wild in Australia have been included in the brochures. These include a house crow found at a caravan park in Port Hedland, WA, and a group of Indian ringneck parakeets trapped in a Perth suburb and rehomed.

Importantly, the pest alerts also distinguish these non-native species from similar-looking native birds. As many reports of introduced birds turn out to be native species, it is hoped that this will focus reporting to the problem species.

Any sightings of unusual birds or animals should be reported to DAFWA's Pest and Disease Information Service on 1800 084 881 (freecall) and the pest alerts can be downloaded from DAFWA's website at:

[www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au)