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Strongylaspis corticarius, Ancita.

1 2

## Rare Destructive Beetle Found at LA Port

Updated: Friday, 29 Jul 2011, 4:13 PM PDT  
Published : Friday, 29 Jul 2011, 4:13 PM PDT

**Ap** Text Story by:  
Associated Press

Posted by:  
myFOXla.com Web Staff

Los Angeles - Southern California port officials say a rare and destructive beetle has been discovered for the first time in the state and just the second time in the United States.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement Friday that agriculture specialists at the Los Angeles-Long Beach port complex intercepted the live adult beetle in a shipment of pineapple from Costa Rica, and immediately began working to return it.

The insect -- strongylaspis corticarius, Ancita -- is a cousin of the Asian Long-Horned beetle. Officials say their larvae consume wood, bark, stems and plant fluids, posing a serious threat to the U.S. forest and timber industry.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the beetle was intercepted in Miami in 1999, the only other time it has appeared in the country.

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APTV-07-29-11 1538PDT

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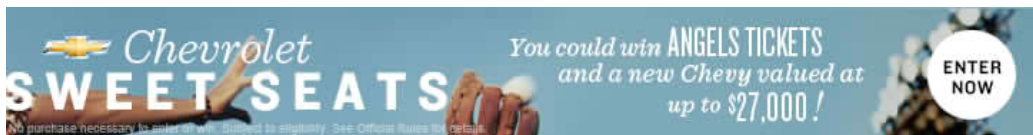
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