

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Bo Z, Bugguide.net

Common Name: Mesquite Borer

Scientific Name: *Placosternus difficilis*

Order and Family: Coleoptera; Cerambycidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1-2mm	Extremely small white eggs which hatch in late fall
Larva/Nymph	15-25mm	Cream-colored, legless grub with a brown head
Adult	19-20mm	The long antennae are $\frac{3}{4}$ in of the body. Generally black beetle marked with yellow cross bands on the thorax and W-shaped band on the wing covers.
Pupa (if applicable)		Cream Color

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host plant/s: Acacia and Mesquite trees

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Larvae develop in trunks, causing deep tunneling that may riddle the plant and produce serious structural weakening. Holes in bark and stains or oozing liquid on limbs or trunks are common symptoms of damage by mesquite borers. Foliage may discolor and wilt, limbs may die back, and branches or entire plants may be killed. However, mesquite borers attack mostly damaged or dying or freshly cut wood; healthy trees are rarely attacked

References:

Quinn, M. (2009, November). Mesquite Borer. *Placosternus difficilis* . Retrieved from <http://texasento.net/Placosternus.htm>

Roundheaded (Longhorned) borers. (2016) Retrieved from <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/INVERT/roundheadbore.html>.

Species *Placosternus difficilis* - Mesquite Borer (2003). Retrieved from <http://www.bugguide.net/node/view/37159>.