

Pest Profile



Adult



Note mine cavity with larvae & silken cocoons

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Common Name: American plum borer

Scientific Name: *Euzophera semifuneralis*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera; Pyralidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Adult	Wingspan: 17-28 mm	Males and females are identical. The moth is a light grayish brown; forewings are narrow and somewhat triangular and reddish brown in color; varied wavy markings but usually black and brown in color and located about 2/3 of the distance from its base. The hind wings are broad, pale fringed on the trailing edge, and dirty white or pale brownish gray in color. Some veins in the hind wings may be darker than those in the forewing. Adults are attracted to light.
Egg	0.33-0.5 mm	Eggs are laid singly or in small masses near bark wounds. They are oval in shape and covered in a network of triangular facets. The egg are dirty white when laid but turn deep red as they mature.
Larva	0.25-25 mm	Dusky white to grayish green to grayish purple in color; however, some species are dark lavender or dark red. The coloring on the upper side is darker than the underside. The head capsule, cervical shield, and anal plate are dark yellow to dark brown in color and often exhibit indefinite pigmented areas; only long and distinct primary setae are present, giving the larva a bristly appearance.

Pupae	11-12 mm	A cocoon that is tan to dark brown in color with black eyes; pupation occurs under the bark of the tree
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Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Larvae and adults both have chewing mouthparts.

Host plant/s: Primarily found in peach and tart cherry trees but can be found on at least 15 families of fruit, nut, ornamental, and forest trees, as well as a few woody annuals including apple, apricot, basswood, cherry, cottonwood, ginkgo, mountain-ash, mulberry, nectarine, olive, pear, pecan, persimmon, plum, poplar, sweet gum, and walnut.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

Larvae: Larvae feed beneath bark on the cambium of various species of trees. They can only enter the cambium layer through openings created by mechanical damage, diseases, sunscald, winter injury, etc., and may enlarge the openings. Damage usually goes unnoticed because the outer bark usually remains intact; however, because they feed horizontally, they may eventually girdle the trunk and completely remove strips of bark, potentially killing the tree. The effect of the larvae is greatest under drought conditions and also when the tree is young.

Adults: Adult American plum borers do not directly cause damage; however, they can spread pathogens. Females in particular can carry spores from canker causing diseases from an infected tree to an uninfected tree while they look for places to lay their eggs.

References:

Kain, D. P., Agnello, A. M., & New York State. (1997). American Plum Borer. New York State Integrated Pest Management Program - Cornell University. Retrieved March 21, 2016, from <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/handle/1813/43068/am-plum-borer-FS-NYSIPM.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

McLeón, R., & Hardy, R. (2013, April 7). Species *Euzophera semifuneralis* - American Plum Borer - Hodges#5995. Retrieved March 21, 2016, from <http://bugguide.net/node/view/39393>