

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Tom Murray, BugGuide.net

Common Name: Bronze Birch Borer

Scientific Name: *Agrilus anxius* (Gory)

Order and Family: Coleoptera; Buprestidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Length: 1.5 mm Width: 1 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oval and flattened• Start out creamy white in color but turn yellow with age• Laid singly or in clusters of 6-7 in branch crevices and cracks
Larva/Nymph	2-38 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head is light brown• Pale white in color• Flattened appearance• Two short, brown pincers
Adult	Females: 7.5-11.5 mm Males: 6.5-10 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slender, olive-bronze in color with coppery reflections• Males have a greenish colored head• Females have a coppery-bronze colored head
Pupa (if applicable)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creamy white and then darkens• Pupation occurs within chambers under the bark

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Both larvae and adults have chewing mouthparts.

Host plant/s: European white birch, white-barked Himalayan paper birch, gray birch, sweet birch, yellow birch, cottonwood, and sometimes river birch.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Bronze birch borers prefer trees that are stressed due to drought or defoliation. Larvae feed on the phloem and cambium while creating numerous galleries, which eventually alters nutrient transport and kills off the root system while leading to further necrosis in the major branches and main stem. Adult beetles feed on leaves but do not harm the overall health of the tree.

References:

Iowa State University. (2003-2016). Species *Agrilus anxius* - Bronze Birch Borer. Retrieved March 20, 2016, from <http://bugguide.net/node/view/56062/tree>

Katovich, S. A., Munson, A. S., Ball, J., & McCullough, D. (2016). Bronze Birch Borer, FIDL. Retrieved March 20, 2016, from <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/bbb/bbb.htm>

Lloyd, J. E., & Hahn, J. (2016). Bronze birch borer and twolined chestnut borer in Minnesota. Retrieved March 20, 2016, from <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/bronze-birch-borer/>