Pest Profile

Photo credit: Mark Dreiling, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Boxelder Twig Borer

Scientific Name: *Proteoteras willingana*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera: Tortricidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.5mm	Small whitish eggs, generally deposited singly on the underside of the leaves.
Larva/Nymph	12mm	White to light yellow or reddish-brown bodies and dark brown, almost black heads.
Adult	15-20mm	The forewings are white to grayish-brown to olive-green with clusters and streaks of yellowish-tan to black scales. The hind wings are yellowish-tan, with a dark line along the margin.
Pupa (if applicable)	12mm	The larvae drop to the ground and pupate in debris beneath the host. Moths emerge 10 to 18 days later, completing the life cycle.

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

Host plant/s: Maple and boxelder trees

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Early larval stages strip some leaves, resulting in minimal injury. Later stages may cause excessive forking of branches due to spindle-shaped galls, which become woody, split open and die, and prevent further terminal growth. The boxelder borer will destroy the buds and tender shoots of boxelder and red maple but is not likely to kill a tree, but repeated infestations cause the tree to become bushy and undesirable as a shade tree. By the time symptoms appear, the caterpillars have bored into the twig and are safe from any type of control measure. Any attempt to reduce damage to infested plants must be done before the small caterpillars have tunneled into the plant.

References:

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