

Pest Profile



Photo credit: David E. Reed, bugguide.net

Common Name: Eastern Ash Bark Beetle

Scientific Name: *Hylesinus aculeatus*

Order and Family: Coleoptera, Curculionidae

Size and Appearance:

| | Adult | Egg | Larva/Nymph | Pupae (if applicable) |
|--------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------|
| Length (mm) | 2 to 3.5 mm long | .55mm | 1-2 mm | |
| Appearance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Small, dark beetle. Dark-brown body, compact build.- Distinct brown and white pattern on the back due to the white-grey scale covering the dark- brown body.- It has a rounded back with the rear slightly sloped. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- White | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Small, white with brown mandibles, legless, C-shaped.- Thoracic segments moderately larger than abdominal segments. | |

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

Host plant/s: Green and White Ash, Autumn purple ash is favored host.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Adult beetles cut egg galleries under bark and larvae tunnel and girdle; sometimes can kill branches. The spread of the infestation can be very rapid. Unfortunately, most times the signs are only noticeable after the tree is fully infested or already dead. The first sign of infestation may be the discoloration of the tree crowns to yellow or red. There may also be the

appearance of small holes in the bark surface. The eggs are then located branching off from these holes beneath the bark. These holes are the exit holes of the new adults.

These beetles are known for inhabiting, and as a result killing, many large Ash trees (both green and white) in an area. This beetle usually cannot survive in younger trees; younger trees are stronger and produce more sap than do older trees. The younger ash trees resist the invasion through a process known as “pitching out” (after an insect bores into a young tree the tree is able to fill the invasion sight with sap or “pitch;” this pitch fills the hole so that other beetles are not attracted to the pheromones released by the first burrowing beetle) and therefore no matting takes place and the tree is able to fight off the invasion. Older, larger trees lack this ability; as a result they usually die from the invasion. Once these larger trees have been damaged by the beetle, there could be a risk of the tree blowing over or simply cracking off and damaging any property or electrical wiring that may be in the vicinity.

References:

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