



Banded Elm Bark Beetle

Scolytus schevyrewi Semenov (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae)

The Banded Elm Bark Beetle (BEBB) is an exotic invasive beetle that is threatening U.S. elm trees. BEBB are capable of killing mature, drought-stressed elms, and during outbreaks may attack healthy elms. There is concern that BEBB may be a carrier of Dutch elm disease. Adults are weak short-range fliers and can be dispersed by air currents, but long distance spread occurs when people move infested elm nursery stock and wood products with bark (firewood, logs) into uninfested areas.

IDENTIFICATION:

- Adults are small, 0.12-0.16" (3-4 mm) long, cylindrically shaped beetles.



- The body is shiny, reddish-brown; the head and thorax are dark brown/black.

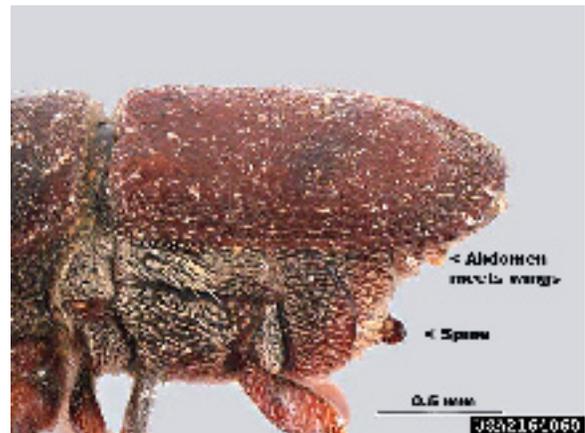


- A dark brown transverse band across the elytra (wing cover) is usually present, but can be absent.

**Adult BEBB
Actual Size:**



- The wing tips extend beyond the end of the abdomen, and the bottom part of the abdomen rises steeply to meet the elytra.



- Mature larvae are milky-white, legless, C-shaped grubs, with creamy yellow heads slightly retracted into the prothorax, and brown mouthparts.
- Mature larvae, at 0.2-0.3" (5-7.5 mm) long, are slightly larger than adult beetles.
- Larvae are found in the cambium under the outer bark.

Identification of bark beetle species is difficult and should be confirmed by a professional entomologist.

What to Look For:

Adults emerge in early spring and are most active on warm, sunny afternoons. Adult BEBB feed in the crotches of tender twigs, usually attacking elms that are drought stressed, fallen, or dying from Dutch elm disease, as well as broken elm branches and firewood. BEBB prefer trees over 4 years old with trunks or branches greater than 2.0" (5 cm) in diameter. Eggs are laid beneath the bark, and newly hatched larvae feed there. There may be 2-3 overlapping generations a year, and all life stages of BEBB may be present in the galleries later in the summer.

Symptoms of BEBB infestation include:

- Wilted and/or fading foliage and branch breakage; adult feeding damage in crotches of twigs.



- Small round entrance/exit holes 0.06-0.08" (1.6-2.0 mm) in diameter, in the bark.



- Sawdust and occasionally sap flow may be found on the bark near entrance holes.
- Bark may easily slough off or be peeled away due to larvae feeding on the inner bark.



- BEBB galleries are asymmetric with a single vertical egg gallery, and numerous overlapping larval mines radiating from both sides.



- Repeated attacks on declining trees can lead to tree death.



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Fig. 1, exit holes: Wyoming State Forestry Division.

Fig. 2, larvae beneath bark; Fig. 3, egg gallery and mines: Jose F. Negrón, USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station

Fig. 4, with dime for size comparison: City of Cheyenne Forestry Division

To report a possible sighting, visit the UMD Cooperative Extension Exotic Pest Threats Website:
<http://hgic.umd.edu/faq/sendAQuestion.cfm>

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