

BANDED ELM BARK BEETLE

Scolytus schevyrewi

- Natural range -** Banded elm bark beetle is native to China, Mongolia, Korea, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, southern Kyrgyzstan and Asian Russia. This insect was discovered in Colorado and Utah in 2003 and has since been found to occur in 10 western and central states.
- Species affected -** In Asia, elms are the primary hosts. Other reported hosts include weeping willow, Russian olive, peashrub, apple, European bird cherry, apricot, Santa Rosa plum, peach, and Yedo flowering cherry. In Colorado, American rock and Siberian elms are attacked.
- Type of damage -** This insect attacks elms stressed by drought. Galleries are constructed in the inner bark (cambium layer) of the tree. Infested trees are killed by the attack.
- Symptoms -** Look for wilting or fading of foliage on elms. The trunks of heavily attacked trees are often covered with brown boring dust and occasionally sap flow on the bark surface near the entrance hole. Consumption of the inner bark by the larvae leads to its easy peeling and sloughing. Removal of bark will reveal the characteristic gallery pattern of this insect and life stages. Adult beetles can also be found in the outer bark of infested trees. They have distinct dark band on the elytra (wing covers). After adult emergence, round exit holes (1.6-2.0 mm in diameter) can be found on the bark surface.
- Importance -** The importance of this insect in the U.S. is not yet known although it can kill elm trees.



Adult banded elm bark beetle

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Left – Boring dust on elm indicative of banded elm bark beetle attack
Right – Galleries of banded elm bark beetle on small elm



Left- Galleries of banded elm bark beetle on large elm
Right- Exit holes of banded elm bark beetle
(Photos courtesy of Dave Leatherman, Colorado State Forest Service
and Jose Negron, USDA Forest Service)

