

BROWN HEADED ASH SAWFLY

Tomostethus multicinctus

- Natural range -** Eastern U.S. This insect first appeared in Colorado in the 1980s.
- Species affected -** Ash, *Fraxinus* spp.
- Type of damage -** Larvae feed on the foliage of ash
- Symptoms -** Presence of wasplike sawfly adults laying eggs on ash trees in early May. Pale green caterpillar-like larvae occur on undersides of foliage. Small Ashholes® in leaves caused by young larvae, followed by complete stripping of the foliage. Damage usually occurs in May. When larvae complete feeding, they migrate down the trunks of trees to pupate in the soil.
- Importance -** Brown headed ash sawfly has been a major shade tree pest in the Boulder area for several years. It was found for the first time in Larimer County in 2003.



Left – Defoliation of ash by brown-headed ash sawfly.
Right – Mature brown headed ash sawfly on bark surface of ash.