

FLATHEADED WOOD BORERS

Family Buprestidae

- Natural range -** A large family of insects with a global distribution.
- Species affected -** Many species of broadleaf and coniferous trees and woody shrubs are subject to attack.
- Type of damage -** Boring of wood and twigs and girdling of cambium area. When boring occurs in twigs and branches, they can become subject to wind breakage. Girdling will kill trees.
- Symptoms -** Presence of frass filled galleries in cambium region, broken twigs with boring galleries, oval shaped adult exit holes on infested trees.
- Importance -** Some species, such as the bronze birch borer (see following page) are capable of killing trees that are weakened by drought or other stress factors.
- Remarks -** Adults are often shiny and metallic colored. Some species are quite colorful. The larvae of some flatheaded woodborers are common in firewood. When adults emerge from wood stored in the home, they can cause homeowners some alarm.



Left – Larval stage of a flatheaded woodborer
Center/Right – Adult flatheaded woodborers