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OAK AMBROSIA BEETLE, *Platypus quercivorus* (COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE)

Oak Ambrosia Beetle Adult and Damage



Images by Purdue University and James Solomon, USDA APHIS

Sawdust Tubes



Lindgren funnel trap



Ambrosia beetles are tiny insects that feed under the bark of stressed, dying, or recently dead trees. *Platypus quercivorus*, the oak ambrosia beetle (OAB) is an Asian species that is not known to be in North America. This beetle occurs in India, Java, Japan, Papua New Guinea and Taiwan.

The damage caused by the OAB is typical of all ambrosia beetles. Larval feeding in the cambial area causes discoloration and wilting of the canopy. Sapwood is stained with the ambrosia fungus near the horizontal galleries. Any staining beyond that may be due to the Japanese oak wilt that OAB vectors. Sawdust tubes emerge from tiny entrance and exit holes along the trunk and branches. This damage defaces and reduces the quality of wood products and the introduction of this non-native pest into Connecticut would pose a threat to lumber production and other wood commodity industries.

The 4 – 5 mm long adult beetle is black to dark brown with a depression along the midline of the pronotum. The last segment on the antenna is flattened and oval in shape. Larvae are legless, white, with a brown head capsule.

Oak ambrosia beetles emerge from late June through fall. Mating occurs at the entrance hole. There is one generation per year.

Host wood includes many species of oak (*Quercus*), tan oak (*Lithocarpus*) and chinkapin (*Castanopsis*).

Monitoring for the presence of the oak ambrosia beetle is part of the 2013 Connecticut Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program. A lindgren funnel trap, which is serviced every two weeks beginning in June until the end of July, is used to trap these beetles.

CONNECTICUT CAPS PEST 2013

