Identification of Ambrosia beetles common in Nurseries

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Xylosandrus Classification

- Coleoptera
- Polyphaga
- Cucujiformia
- Curculionoidea
- Curculionidae
- Scolytinae
  - Xyleborini (Ambrosia beetles – 36 genera)
    - Xylosandrus (4 commonly found in the U.S.)

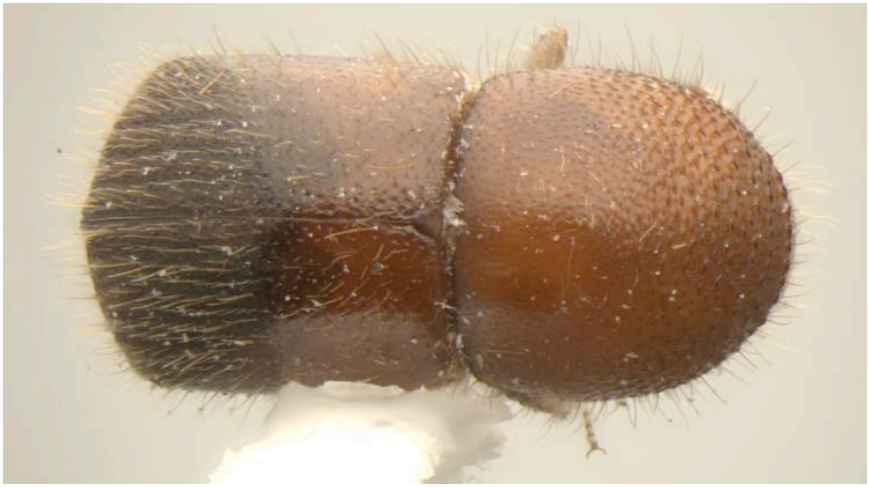
The Common Four

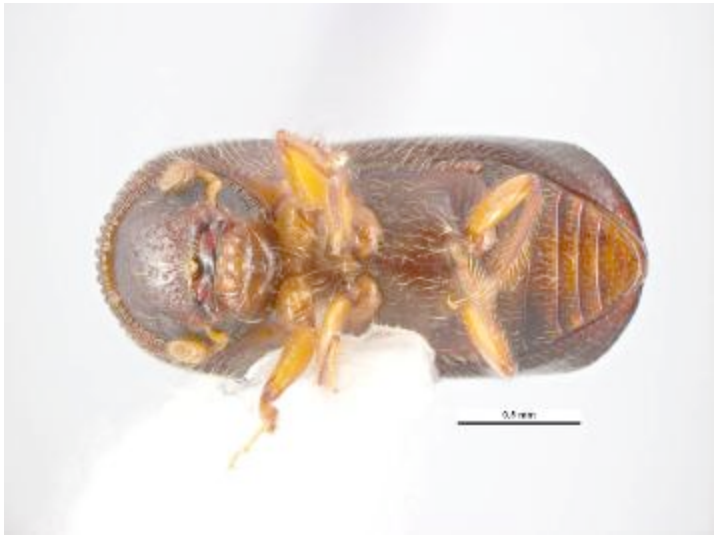
- X. crassiusculus
  - Midwest, Southeast, South, Northeast. Well distributed.
- X. mutilatus
  - Mainly the Southeast.
- X. germanus
  - Most widely dispersed, from Southeast, Midwest, Northeast, to Canada.
- X. compactus
  - Mainly the Southeast.

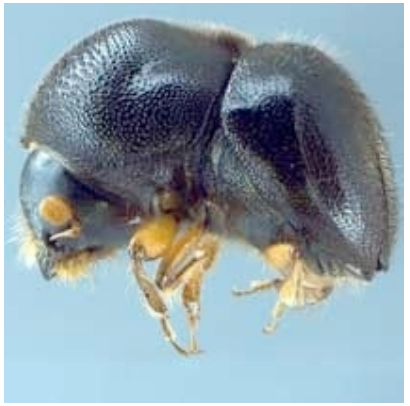
Identification: What they all have in common

- Pronotum distinct, concealing the head from dorsal view.
- Ranges in color from reddish to black.
- Widely separated procoxae that varies in distance for each species, but remains existent. Meso/Meta coxae is not certain.
- Antennae structure looking like a sliced club.
- Strong present declivity found on elytra.

ID: General cont…







ID: Individual X. crassiusculus

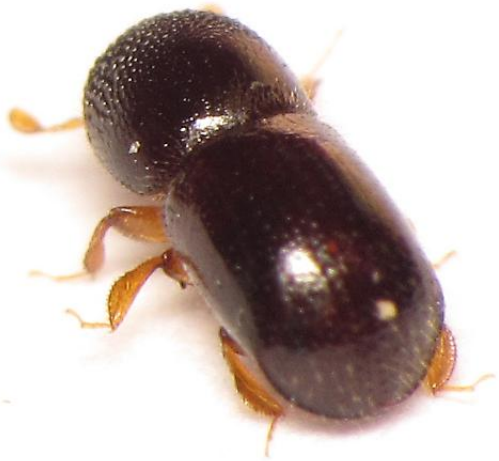
- Elytra always longer than pronotum.
- Typically reddish brown, and darkens in the declivity.
- Ranging from 2.1-2.9mm in length. Relatively stout compared to most Xyleborini.
- Elytra and declivity lacking punctures, usually dull and grainy in appearance.

ID: Individual X. mutilatus

- Most unique of the common four. Easily discerned at first sight.
- Pronotum longer than elytra.
- Typically a black color.
- Is approximately 3.5mm in length, easily the largest.

ID: Individual X. germanus

- Elytra always longer than pronotum.
- Deep brown to black in color.
- Ranging from 2-2.4mm in length.
- Elytra declivity lacking hair (setae) growing from the punctures. Appearance is shiny in the absence of hair.
- On close inspection, there is convex shaping between the punctures.



ID: Individual X. compactus

- Elytra is always longer than the pronotum.
- The smallest species of the four, ranging from 1.4-1.8mm in length.
- Appearance and color is very similar to X. germanus.
- Declivity maintaining hair found on punctures, without “bald patch”.