



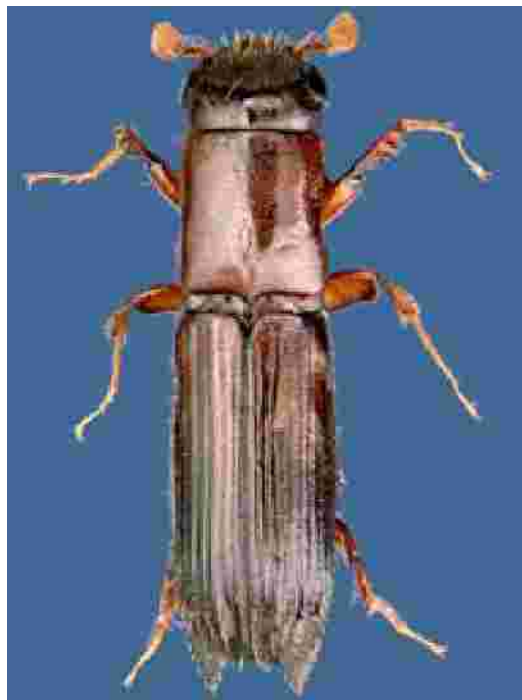
OAK AMBROSIA BEETLE

Platypus quercivorus

The Oak Ambrosia Beetle is capable of causing extensive tree mortality in oak forests dominated by *Quercus*. This could result in major environmental impacts such as loss of biodiversity, changes in species composition of forests, reduced acorn crops and resultant adverse impacts on wildlife species that depend on acorns as a food source.



Perdue University



University of Tennessee – Inst. Of Ag.

Identifying Features:

Adults of the genus *Platypus* are reddish brown to dark brown in color with a cylindrical, elongated body that averages 5 mm long. These insects have a concave declivity armed with spines. The front (prothoracic) legs are adapted for excavation.

Larvae are variable in size, ranging from 2-6mm when matures. External symptoms include large amounts of splinter-like boring dust at the base of infested oaks as well as late summer wilting.

Damage:

Platypus quercivorus has a wide host range. It attacks many species of the family **Fagaceae (Mainly oaks)**, but is also known to attack **spicebush, Prunus sp., and Cryptomeria**. Oaks are commercially important for lumber and products such as furniture, cabinets, flooring and cooperage. In addition oaks are important ornamental and street trees in many North American communities. The Oak Ambrosia Beetle could cause significant loss of wood quality.



USDA Forest Service

Information Sources

[Oak Ambrosia Beetle](http://eppsriver.ag.utk.edu/invasive-species-site/oak_ambrosia_beetle.shtml), University of Tennessee. <http://eppsriver.ag.utk.edu/invasive-species-site/oak_ambrosia_beetle.shtml>

[Platypus quercivorus](http://spfnic.fs.fed.us/exfor/data/pestreports.cfm?pestidval=166&langdisplay=english), Forest Health Management International <<http://spfnic.fs.fed.us/exfor/data/pestreports.cfm?pestidval=166&langdisplay=english>>

Image Sources

[Oak Ambrosia Beetle](http://eppsriver.ag.utk.edu/invasive-species-site/oak_ambrosia_beetle.shtml), University of Tennessee. http://eppsriver.ag.utk.edu/invasive-species-site/oak_ambrosia_beetle.shtml

[Oak Ambrosia Beetle](http://pest.ceris.purdue.edu/pest.php?code=INBNQEA), Perdue University. <http://pest.ceris.purdue.edu/pest.php?code=INBNQEA>

[Platypus sp.](http://www.forestryimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=0284055), USDA Forest Service <http://www.forestryimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=0284055>

This fact sheet was made possible, in part, by a Cooperative Agreement from the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection