

Ips Beetles

Typical Location When Observed: Associated pines and spruce and common associate of firewood.

Importance/Damage: Often a minor pest of living trees, usually causing damage to trees suffering severe drought stress and/or recent root injuries. Large numbers may locally develop on slash piles and later move to living trees.



Distinguishing Features: A small brown beetle (4-6 mm) with a stubby body and jagged hind end. When invading the trunks of trees fine brown sawdust accumulates below the entry point. Larvae are legless and grub-like, found in galleries under the wood. The gallery pattern often involves a central area (nuptial chamber) with 3-4 radiating egg galleries.

Ips beetle. The jagged hind end of the wing covers is a diagnostic feature. Photograph courtesy Ladd Livingston/ IPM Images.

Look-Alikes: There are several *Ips* species of very similar appearance. Ips beetles can be separated from the more damaging *Dendroctonus* species of bark beetles (e.g., mountain pine beetle, spruce beetle) by having the hind edge of *Ips* beetle body being jagged; the wing covers of *Dendroctonus* species smoothly cover the hind body.

Resources: The life history, habits and management of this insect are covered in Extension Fact Sheet 5.558, *Ips Beetles*.

Scientific Name: *Ips* species

Order: Coleoptera (Beetles)

Family/Subfamily: Curculionidae/Scolytinae (Bark Beetles)



Galleries produced under bark by spruce Ips.

Actual Length
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