Pest Profile

Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska—Lincoln Department of Entomology

Common Name: Apple twig borer

Synonyms: Apple twig borer beetle, Grape cane borer

Scientific Name: *Amphicerus bicaudatus*

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Bostrichidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Less than 1mm	The eggs are creamy white and oblong.
Larva	1 to 8 mm, some can become 10.2 mm	White with brown head and mandibles, curved body and three pairs of short legs close to the head region.
Adult	6 to 13 mm long 1.2 to 3.5 mm wide	Color is uniform in the body but varies among beetles from reddish brown, dark chestnut brown, brownish black, to almost black. The dorsal surface of body has sparse, short, flat, yellowish hairs. Males have two small hornlike projections on the thorax and a smaller tubercle on rear of each forewing.
Pupae (if applicable)	Same as larva	Looks like the larva and are white to grey in color.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host plant/s: While apple and grape trees are the preferred hosts, the apple twig borer will attack many other trees, especially fruit and nut-producing trees, throughout the eastern United States west to the Rocky Mountains. Examples of trees attacked include peach, plum, cherry, pear, apricot, Osage-orange, ash, butternut, pecan, hickory, and maple trees

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Damage is caused by both the larvae and adults on different areas.

Injured, diseased, dying, and/or recently dead trees are usually attacked; however, they will also bore into living healthy branches and vines to feed and shelter. Plants that were in good shape prior to attack will begin to wilt, droop, and never look as healthy as adjacent uncompromised plants. These infested plants may not die immediately, because the entire vascular system of the plant has not been disrupted; however, they will never catch up to the healthy plants.

The apple twig borer creates a single round entrance holes 3-5 mm in diameter either above or below buds. They will form a tunnel for the borer to lay its eggs. The larva will live in the tunnel until it develops into an adult and will later bore an exit hole that is 3-5 mm in diameter to emerge either through the bark in a tree or near a bud in a vine. The problem often goes unnoticed because of the timing of their emergence and size and position of their exit holes.

References:

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