



Twig girdler

Oncideres cingulata

Order Coleoptera, Family Cerambycidae;
longhorned beetles, roundheaded borers
Native pest

Host plants: Basswood, dogwood, elm, hackberry, honeylocust, oak, poplar, pecan, persimmon, poplar, sourwood, and fruit trees

Description: Adults are grayish brown, approximately 15 mm long, with scattered yellow spots, fine golden hairs covering the head, and fine gray hairs covering the elytra. Mature larvae are 18 mm in length and are white with black heads.

Life history: Eggs are deposited in girdled twigs. Twigs or branches soon die and fall to the ground. Larvae feed on these fallen twigs until the middle of the following summer. Adults emerge in late summer and feed on twig tips or tender stem bark. There is usually one generation a year, but many larvae do not pupate until the second year.

Overwintering: Larvae in twigs on the ground.

Damage symptoms: On trees that are heavily infested, large numbers of branches may be girdled, then turn brown, and fall. Young trees may suffer severe damage.

Monitoring: In August and September, look for twigs that have gathered under trees and that display signs of having been cut. Cut open a sample to verify the presence of girdler larvae.

Physical control: Collect and destroy infested branches and twigs at the end of the growing season.

Chemical control: None suggested.

Biological control: Two hymenopterous parasitoids are recorded, but their degree of control is unknown. The downy woodpecker, blue jay, and black-capped chickadee all feed on larvae.

Plant mortality risk: Low

Biorational pesticides: None

Conventional pesticides: None



Twig girdling damage caused by twig girdler adult female. (246)
Photo: Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service



Twig girdler adult female ovipositing eggs into stem; note that she is beginning to girdle. (247)
Photo: John Davidson



Twig girdler larva. (248)
Photo: John Davidson