







Technical Bulletin for: Sequoia Pitch Moth

Synanthedon sequoiae (Hy. Edwards) • Lepidoptera: Sesiidae • SYNSEQ



DISTRIBUTION	West coast of North America, from California to British Columbia.
HOSTS	Pine
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT MOTH	Brownish-black with some yellow. Clear wings with bluish black margins and some yellow at the base. The body is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long and a wingspan of $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
LARVAE	Dirty white, grayish or pink, up to 28mm long.
EGGS	Reddish-brown, somewhat oval and about 1/16 inch in diameter.
LIFE HISTORY	Adults emerge earlier at warmer inland sites, and later at cooler sites near the coast. Peak moth emergence occurs in June and July. Adults live only a few days, during which they mate and females lay eggs. Eggs are laid individually on bark. They hatch in about 2 weeks. The larvae feed for several months. After feeding, about one month is spent in the pupal stage. The dark brown pupae are about 3/4 inch long and occur in silk-lined chambers within the pitch mass. Before adults emerge, the pupae force about half of their length through the pitch surface, leaving a brown, paper-like case after they emerge. Most sequoia pitch moths require 2 years to develop from egg to adult. The insect spends most of its life in the larval stage.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	(Z,Z)-3,13-Octadecadien-1-ol on gray rubber septum. Field life: four (4) weeks. 
TRAP TO USE	Plastic Delta Trap or Uni-Trap   
MONITORING STRATEGY	Use at least 2 traps. Place traps at about shoulder height on trees, spaced at least several hundred feet apart. Because moths can be attracted from great distances, traps need not be located in infested trees, but may be placed where they are more convenient to monitor. Check the traps once a week for moths. Contact your local forester for more information on forest management practices.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROLS	Protect trees from injury. Moths prefer to lay eggs on bark near pruning wounds and other injury sites. Provide trees with proper cultural care (especially appropriate irrigation) to reduce the frequency of borer attack and increase the trees' ability to tolerate damage. Carefully scrape away pitch masses to expose and kill larvae. No other control aside from minimizing injuries to trees is recommended. Pines are not seriously harmed by this insect.

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insect monitoring systems

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