





Technical Bulletin for: Western Poplar Borer

Paranthrene robiniae (Edwards) • Lepidoptera, Sesiidae • PARROB



DISTRIBUTION	From sea level to near the timber line from Alaska southward along the Pacific Coast to southern California and throughout the Rocky Mountains into the desert southwest and as far east as Kansas and North Dakota.
HOSTS	Various species of Poplar, Willow and Birch.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	The wingspan is 23–30 mm for males and 30–36 mm for females. Adults are yellow-black, with orange brown forewings with somewhat darker veins. The hindwings are transparent with a conspicuous deep yellow discal mark and fringed with dark brown scales.
Larvae	About 23-30 mm long, white to grayish white with a brown head and thoracic shield.
Eggs	Oval and brown with a reticulated surface- 1.0-1.2 mm across the greatest axis
LIFE HISTORY	Adults emerge mostly from March to August, depending on location. Newly hatched larvae crawl over the bark for a few hours before selecting suitable sites to begin feeding. The larvae initially excavate cavities in the phloem and cambium and later galleries into the wood. The larvae feed during two successive summer and fall seasons. The first winter in the galleries, which are loosely packed with frass and the second winter in pupal chambers near the distal ends of the galleries. These distal ends are capped with silk, but no cocoons are formed. Pupation lasts two to three weeks. A generation requires two years over most of its range but may be of shorter duration in its southern range.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	EZ-3,13-18OH and ZZ-3,13-18OH in a Red Rubber Septum. Lure Longevity: Thirty (30) days. 
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap 
MONITORING STRATEGY	Hang traps near host plants, at least 1 m off of the ground. When trapping for multiple species of insect, a spacing of up to 20m is recommended. Check with local Forestry Service for further information and recommendations.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Inspect for damage to crops, which includes sap ooze from bark as well as frass ejected from the bark. Heavier infestations can be determined by swollen and/or galled/cankered trunks with numerous entrance/exit holes. Remove infested branches, or whole tree if infestation is significant enough, and incinerate remains as necessary.

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