





Technical Bulletin for: Sirex Wood Wasp

Sirex noctilio (Fabricius) • Hymenoptera, *Sirecidae* • SIRNOC



DISTRIBUTION	Europe, Asia and Northern Africa. Invasive to Australia, New Zealand, the Americas, and South Africa
HOSTS	Various species of Pine Tree (Jack, Canary, Lodgepole, Japanese Umbrella, Shortleaf, Slash, Aleppo, Jeffrey, Black, Longleaf, Mexican Weeping, Maritime, Stone, Ponderosa, Radiata, Red, Eastern White, Scots, Loblolly), Common Spruce, Silver Fir, Larches and Douglas-fir.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult	Adults have a sturdy, cylindrical body without a waist, but with a pointed abdomen. The female body is 15–36 mm, and the male is 9–32 mm long. Both sexes have long, black, bristle-shaped antennae, which are rather close together. Males are black with an orange abdomen; the wings are yellowish-translucent, and antennae are black. Females are iron blue with orange legs and black antennae, their wings also appearing a yellowish-translucent color.
Larvae	Nearly colorless with three stubby sterna, usually S shaped.
Eggs	Soft, white, smooth and elongate, measured at 1.55 mm long and 0.28 mm wide.
LIFE HISTORY	Adult emergence depends entirely on climate. During oviposition, the female wasp lays two eggs, while simultaneously injecting toxic mucus and a symbiotic fungus on which the larvae feed, 3-9 m up in the bark of susceptible pine trees that are at least 15-20 cm in diameter. As they grow, the larvae bore galleries deep into and through the wood, unlike bark beetles, which typically confine themselves to the cambium layer, just under the bark. This makes them more difficult to detect and more difficult to eliminate. These trees are often used to make solid wood packing material. Since the life cycle can take a year or more, the insect is easily transported in pallets or other wood packing material.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	(+) Alpha-pinene, (-) Alpha Pinene, and Beta-pinene absorbed in a sponge in a plastic bag. Lure longevity: 30 days.	
TRAP TO USE	Panel Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Hang traps at least 10 m off the ground, wherever damage to bark/egg laying sites are present. Check with local Forestry Service for more information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Check for trees or bark dying due to fungal infection or damage from the mucus laid with eggs. Remove infested portions if possible, painting over the wound in the bark as necessary.	

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