



Podosesia syringae lilac (ash) borer

Why Observe?

Ash borer (*Podosesia syringae*), also known as lilac borer, is a clear-wing moth that is native to North America and widespread in the U.S. The larvae tunnel into the trunks and lower branches of lilac, ash, and privet. Trees stressed by drought, injury, or recent transplanting are especially susceptible to borers.

Eggs are deposited on bark and when hatched the tiny larvae bore into the wood and spend all their time eating inside the tree. Then they pupate inside the tree and only emerge from holes in the tree once they have become adults.

Monitoring ash borer phenology is important for effective adults emerge and coordinated management. Knowing when can help managers know when to spray trees to coincide with adult emergence and egg hatch to kill larvae before they enter trunks.

Tips for Identification

Adult ash borers mimic the common paper wasp in color, size, shape, and flight habits. Wingspan varies from 1 to 1.5 inches.

Be aware that there is variation from individual to individual within a species, so your insect may not look exactly like the one pictured. If you are uncertain whether or not a phenophase is occurring, report a "?" for its status until it becomes clear what you are observing after subsequent visits.



5468218

[Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service,](#)
[Bugwood.org. CC BY 3.0](#)



UGA2107046

[David Cappaert, Bugwood.org. CC BY-NC 3.0](#)



Podosesia syringae
lilac (ash) borer



[Mark Dreiling, Bugwood.org, CC BY-NC 3.0](#)

Adults

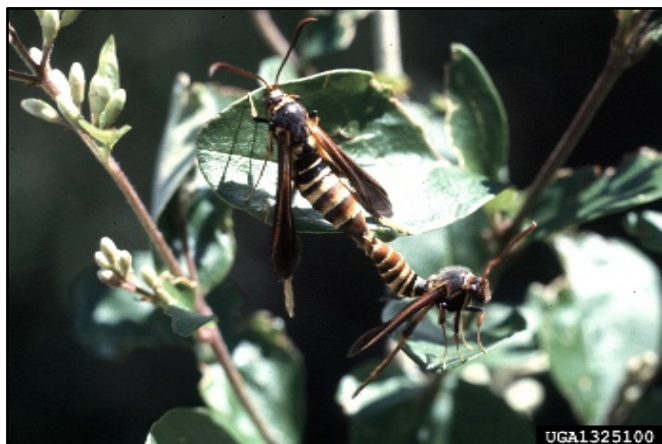
One or more adults are seen or heard moving about or at rest.



[Jesse Christopherson via Flickr, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#)

Adults feeding

One or more adults are seen feeding with their straw-like tongue (proboscis). If possible, record the substance and species on which they are feeding (for example, nectar, sap, dung, or moist soil) in the comments field. For *Podosesia syringae*, adults feed on flower nectar.



[Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org, CC BY 3.0](#)

Mating

A male and female are seen coupled in a mating position, usually end to end. This can occur at rest or in flight.

Image Needed

email
photos@usanpn.org

Egg laying

A female is seen laying eggs on a plant. If possible, record the name of the plant or describe it in the comments field. For *Podosesia syringae*, eggs are typically deposited in tree bark crevices or near tree trunk wounds.

Phenophases not pictured: Dead adults, Individuals at a feeding station, Individuals at a light, Individuals in a net, Individuals in a trap