

Non-native Bark and Ambrosia Beetles

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1/18/2007

Wood products and solid wood packing material move around the globe at ever increasing rates. Bark and ambrosia beetles (scolytids) are often found in shipments of these materials. APHIS' Pest Interception data from 1985-2000 reports more than 600,000 interceptions of insects during this time. Beetles were the fourth most common order and scolytids, the most common family of beetles. Bark and ambrosia beetles are easily moved because of their cryptic nature, wide host range, variety of mating habits, and efficient host finding behavior.

From the 1800's to 1980 there were 29 non-native scolytids reported in North America; since then there have been an additional 26 establishments. Most of these new species are native to Asia, especially the ambrosia beetles. As of the end of 2006, there are 38 species of xyleborine ambrosia beetles in North America, 20 of which are non-native. Their skewed sex ration, sib-mating, broad host range and close relationship with fungi allow these beetles to be easily moved and established in new areas. Most of these non-native species are not aggressive and have not been implicated in tree mortality; however, they all are associated with mutualistic fungi. The pathogenicity of the fungus associated with *Xyleborus glabratus* to North American trees is unique.