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Longhorn beetle identification guide

On hot days in late spring and summer, the sweet scent of stacks of freshly cut timber long horn beetles beckons out into the open. These fabulous insects - a treat for entomologists, but a potential for forest builders - search for places to meet partners and lay their eggs. For one or maybe two years, beetle gravel has fattened up in woody tunnels, chewing the timber with powerful jaws. Some will have appeared as adults last fall, hibernating over the winter. Now the spring sun tempts them out. A good place to start your quest is a solar-heated logpile or stump, where you may well see a wasp beetle moving jerkily over the cut ends. It is an abundant species, but keep an eye on its rarer relatives, such as tanbark borer or Welsh oak longhorn. Many of these beetles feed on flowers: the black and yellow longhorn loves hogweed nectar, for example. Scan flowering hawthorn trees for two-banded, rufous-shouldered and black-spotted longhorns. Black and yellow longhorn (*Rutpeka maculata*) 13-20 mm. Slow-moving wasps mimic. Visit wood and hedge flowers. Wasp beetle (*Cytus arietis*) 6-15 mm. Abundant; fast wasp mimic. Often basks on sunlit logpiles, stumps and leaves. Two-banded longhorn (*Rhagium bifasciatum*) 12-22mm. Deciduous or coniferous forest, often visiting flowers such as hawthorn or bramble. Black-spotted longhorn (*Rhagium mordax*) 13-23mm. Deciduous or mixed forest, often on hawthorn blossom. Can be very accommodating. Welsh oak longhorn (*Pyrrhidium sanguineum*) 6-15mm. Rare and local in southern oak forests; reported most often from stacks of freshly cut oak. Rufous-shouldered longhorn (*Anaglyptus mysticus*) 8-15mm. Forest clearings and hedges; visit hawthorn blossom. Tanbark driller (*Phymatodes testaceus*) 6-18 mm. Park and open forests. Feeder on oak, especially in logpiles; often attracted by illuminated windows. Minor thorn-tipped longhorn (*Pogonocherus hispidus*) 4-6mm. Usually on holly or ivy. Very small and difficult to spot against bark. Small poplar driller (*Saperda populnea*) 9-15mm. On aspen or poplars. Basks on the bark of mature trees or nearby vegetation. Black-striped longhorn (*Stenurella melanura*) 6-10 mm. Open forest; feeds on flowers in clearings. Males have less extensive black on wing cases. Lark longhorn (*Tetropium gabrieli*) 8-18mm. Limited to larch forests; not often seen during the day. Look for it on larch stumps or bark in the evening. Pine-stump driller (*Asemum striatum*) 8-23mm. Coniferous forests, especially in Scotland. Search for it on dead conifers at dusk. There is a Longhorn Beetle Recording Scheme in place to encourage the admission of this group and to manage the records; to find out more click here. Main image: Wasp beetle on dandelion. © Minh Hoang Cong/500px/Getty All illustrations by Felicity Rose Cole Click to take a closer look at This book Customer Reviews Covering 42 British Species. Guide to Longhorn Beetles of Britain is the first popular guide in many years to these large and colourful Almost all species can be identified in the field - most do not even need a hand lens. Beautiful colour illustrations by Richard Lewington come with an extensive species table covering the status, distribution, habitat and size of each species featured. Produced in collaboration with the National Longhorn Beetle Recording Scheme. Customer Reviews Page 2 Click to see more about this book Customer Reviews Covering 42 British Species. Guide to Longhorn Beetles of Britain is the first popular guide in many years to these large and colourful insects. Almost all species can be identified in the field - most do not even need a hand lens. Beautiful colour illustrations by Richard Lewington come with an extensive species table covering the status, distribution, habitat and size of each species featured. Produced in collaboration with the National Longhorn Beetle Recording Scheme. Customer Reviews Page 3 Click to see more about this book Customer Reviews Covering 42 British Species. Guide to Longhorn Beetles of Britain is the first popular guide in many years to these large and colourful insects. Almost all species can be identified in the field - most do not even need a hand lens. Beautiful colour illustrations by Richard Lewington come with an extensive species table covering the status, distribution, habitat and size of each species featured. Produced in collaboration with the National Longhorn Beetle Recording Scheme. Customer reviews Covering 42 UK species, the FSC Longhorn beetles fold-out guide is the first popular field guide in many years to these large and colourful insects. Beautiful colour paintings by renowned artist Richard Lewington show the most important markings and body shape of each species. Text on the back includes a comprehensive identification table covering the status, distribution, habitat and size of the 42 longhorn beetles in the guide. Although not as well known as butterflies, bees and ladybirds, the longhorn beetles are one of Britain's most spectacular families of insects. Their characteristic long antennae help to distinguish the group. The species found in the UK is generally large and dense. Some grow as long as 55mm (not including legs and antennae), while others can be as small as 2.5mm. Many are colorful and some species show interesting behavior. The wasp beetle, for example, is black and yellow in color, and moves in a jerky motion. It is common in hedges and forests. Almost all longhorn beetles can be identified from living insects in the field. Most people don't even need a hand lens. Many longhorn beetles appear as adults between May and August. Some species are active as adults as early as April. Hawthorn, when in bloom between April and June, attracts many species. Later in the summer, hogweed is very attractive to longhorn beetles. Flower-rich hedges, especially when it is near forest, can be a great place to hunt for longhorns! This identification guide produced in collaboration with the National Longhorn Beetle Recording Scheme. Asian Longhorned Beetle Identification Asian Longhorned Beetle Male Female *Anoplophora glabripennis* Click pictures for greater viewing The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) is large, ranging from 0.75-1.25 inches long, with very long black and white antennae. The body is shiny black with irregular white spots. These beetles feed on many species of hardwood trees. Adults can be seen from late spring to autumn depending on the climate. This bubble was introduced from China and is currently confined to areas of the cities of Chicago and New York. Look-alikes The following are insects are common to the United States and are not the Asian longhorned beetle. Whitespotted Pine Sawyer Male Female *Monochamus scutellatus* Click pictures for larger viewing The Whitespotted pine sawyer is found from Newfoundland south to the Carolinas, then west to Minnesota, and north to Alaska. Feeds on many coniferous trees included; white, red and jack pine, balsam fir, and many fir. Adults range from 0.75-1.25 inches in length. Adults show up in late spring and can be seen all summer (depending on climate). These beetles are most often misidentified as ALB. Males are metallic black with a white dot at the base of the wing covers. Females are brown with spots and also have the white dot at the base of the wing covers. ALB doesn't have this white dot, although it has a lot of white spots on the wing covers. Oregon Fir Sawyer *Monochamus oregonensis* Click image for a larger viewing Image of Richard Worth This Oregon fir sawyer is the western counterpart of whitespotted pine sawyer. It feeds on douglas fir, the true fir and pine trees of western North America. Adults range from 0.75-1.25 inches in length. Adults show up in late spring and can be seen all summer (depending on climate). Gran sawyer is often misidentified as ALB in the west. These beetles differ from ALB by the white dot at the base of the wing covers. ALB doesn't have this white dot, although it has a lot of white spots on the wing covers. The Oregon-grans sawyer also has a rough and dull look, while the ALB looks smooth and shiny. Southern Whitespotted Sawyer Male Female *Monochamus titillator* Click images for larger viewing Found in the eastern and southeastern states. This species is similar to *M. carolinensis*. Adults are 0.75 to 1.25 long. They feed on a variety of pine trees, mostly attacking those who are dead or dying. Adults are active from late spring to late autumn depending on climate. These beetles differ from ALB by their red-gray marbled color. Northeastern Sawyer Male Female *Monochamus notatus* Click images for larger viewing Found in northeastern United States and eastern Canada, west to the Great Lakes. They nest in many species of dead and dying coniferous trees, usually in white pine and balsam fir. Adults are up to 1.5 inches long and are a marbled brown/white color. Males have very long antennae. This bubble can be differs from ALB with its brown color and a slightly white place at the base of the wing pads. Cottonwood Borer *Plectrodera scallator* Click images for larger viewing Cottonwood drills are found in the eastern United States, north to New York, west to New Mexico. Larvae and adults feed on willow and poplar, with eastern cotton wood as the most preferred. Adults are 1 to 1.5 inches long, making it one of the largest longhorned beetles in the U.S. Adults come from late spring to mid-summer (depending on climate) and live about a month. Adults are black and white checkered with black antennae. This species can be distinguished from the ALB by the black antennae. ALB antennae have white bands. Also cottonwood drills have white strips around the neck. The neck of the ALB is black. Banded Age Borer *Rosalia lunifrons* Click image for a larger viewing Image of Edward Ross Banded age driller found in New Mexico and California, north to Alaska. Larvae and adults feed on Oregon ash, California laurel, and New Mexico willow. Adults are 1-1.5 inches long with large black and white banded antennae and black-and-white markings on the body. These beetles are often confused with ALB in the western U.S. This species can be distinguished from ALB by the large white marking on the neck and the banded pattern of markings on the back (no irregular white spots). Broadnecked Root Borer Male Female *Prionus latocollis* Click images for larger viewing Broadneck root drills can be found throughout eastern U.S. and Southern Canada. Like larvae, they feed on the roots of hardwood, including oak, chestnut, poplar and apple. Males range in size from 1-1.25 inches. Females are larger, ranging from 1.25-1.75 inches, but have smaller antennae. Adult males fly from May to June, females have never been observed in flight. This species can be distinguished from ALB by the lack of white markings on the body and the lack of white bands on the antennae. Sugar Maple Borer *Glycobius speciosus* Click images for larger viewing Found from southern Canada to North Carolina, which stretches west to Minnesota. It is considered an economically important native of sugar wages, the only host. Adults are about 1 inch long and are black with bright yellow markings. The markings forming a distinct W on the back The insect has been mistakenly identified as ALB because it feeds on sugar maple leaving similar exit holes. Adult sugar maple drills are easily distinguished from the ALB by its bright yellow and black markings. Eyed Elater *Alnus oculatus* Eyed Elater Click images for larger viewing The eyed elater is one of the largest species of click beetles, now over 1.5 inches long. This beetle is a predator of many tree-dull insects of hardwood trees. It's not one for trees. Adults have a salt and pepper that appearance with two large false eye pots on top of the neck (pronotum). Eyed Elater can be distinguished from the ALB by the false eye spots, short black antennae and the lack of different white spots on the wing Western Conifer Seed Bug *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Western Conifer Seed Bug Click images for greater viewing The Western conifer seed bug is brown and reaches 0.75 inches in length. It feeds on seeds and develops cones of coniferous trees. It is often seen indoors when the weather gets colder and can be a nuisance for homeowners. This species can be distinguished from ALB by its brown color, the lack of distinct white spots on the wing pads, and the presence of a straw-like sucking mouth part. Related links ALB or Sawyer? Asian Longhorned Beetle Vs Cottonwood Borer back to top images cannot be used for commercial purposes without the consent of the photographers. Please send us an email for more information. Information.

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