



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
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 Commissioner

PEST: Shot-Hole Borer (*Xyleborus similis*)

BASIC PROFILE: SHB is a type of ambrosia beetle recently found at southern ports. North American host trees are unknown at this time. SHB seems to have a broad range of hosts in other countries. Adults are ~2.5 mm (1/10 inch) long and are slender reddish-brown beetles. Larvae are white, c-shaped legless grubs with an amber colored head capsule. Symptoms of attack are usually pinhole-sized holes in tree bark that are either bleeding or have light-colored boring dust. The gallery system under the bark consists of branched tunnels, without brood chambers. Attacked trees may also show signs of wilting and twig dieback. (There is little U.S. data known at present).

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF may be asked to conduct surveys for SHB in the future. Survey is done using non-specific beetle traps placed in high-risk areas (such as ports) or through following up on shipments of suspected infested material that may enter the state. USDA maintains traps at port areas for these types of beetles. SHB usually attacks stressed or dying trees. Its U.S. pest status is uncertain at this time.

No good photos of *X. similis* were available. Those shown here are other *Xyleborus* spp. as examples.

