

## PACIFIC FLATHEADED BORER Coleoptera: Buprestidae *Chrysobothris mali*

### DESCRIPTION

**Adults** are short, broad, flat beetles about 12 mm long. Their color is reddish-brown with copper colored spots on the wing covers. **Larvae** are white to pale yellow with a greatly enlarged thorax that is flattened dorso-ventrally. Larvae are called flatheaded woodborers and are about 64 mm long when mature.

### ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

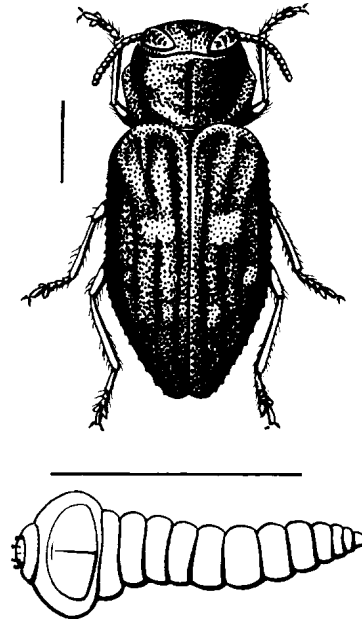
Larvae of this insect, and several other species of *Chrysobothris*, attack numerous forest and orchard trees including walnut, hickory, poplar, oak, willow, elm, and apple. Larvae cannot successfully attack vigorous trees, but readily attack trees that are weak or declining. Larvae feed in the bark for varying periods of time, and penetrate into the phloem of weakened trees causing death of the tree.

### DISTRIBUTION AND LIFE HISTORY

Representatives of this genus occur throughout the world. This pest overwinters in the larval stage within the pupa cell, and pupates the following spring. Adults emerge in the spring and fly for about one month. Adults feed on the foliage of hardwood trees and may cause some defoliation. Females lay eggs in cracks in the bark of host trees. Eggs hatch in two to three weeks, and young larvae bore into the bark. If the larvae find the conditions of the host favorable, they begin constructing broad breeding tunnels in the phloem and outer sapwood. Larvae grow rapidly and begin boring into the solid sapwood by late summer, where they form the pupa cell to overwinter.

### MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

Since this insect does not prefer healthy, vigorously growing trees, it is important to use good management practices to maintain strong, healthy trees. In cut wood, the best method of preventing damage by this insect is to promptly use the wood. Some insecticides are registered to control this pest on nonbearing fruit trees and some species of forest trees.



(after USDA Bull. 1582)

