

A Bug's Life

Cedar beetle

Family: Rhipiceridae; *Sandalus niger*

Fun facts

- Also called cicada parasite beetle because its larvae feed on cicada nymphs under the ground
- Often found in September and October crawling on tree trunks of ash, elm and other hardwood trees
- Eggs laid in cracks of bark
- Young larvae fall to the ground and develop in the soil
- Adults very short-lived

Identification

Large 3/4" to 1" long beetles, dark gray to black, head points downward

Female: Larger, darker color, antennae not as dramatic

Male: Comb-like antennae that spreads out like a fan, smaller than female, may be orange-brown color

Management

- Not considered pests
- Not harmful to tree, humans, pets and unlikely to enter structures
- Homeowners are often alarmed to see such a large insect on the tree and attribute it to damage caused by decay, EAB, native borers, and woodpeckers, but it is not the case



Photos: J. Green