A Bug's Life   Giant ichneumonid wasps

Family: Ichneumonidae; Genus: Megarhyssa

**Fun facts**

- Parasitic wasps of wood-boring insects inside the tree or cut wood
- Females detect larvae of host under the bark, drills into wood, paralyzes host, and deposits egg
- Ichneumonid larva consume host larva and emerges as adult wasp
- Harmless to humans and does not sting

**Identification**

Wasp: Females are 2-5" long, including the threadlike ovipositor, which consists of three filaments; Males are smaller than females and have a blunt tip at the end of the abdomen instead of an ovipositor

**Management**

- No recommendation for control as they are beneficial predators
- Long-tailed giant ichneumon is natural enemy of pigeon horntail wasp
- Black giant ichneumon is natural enemy of other wood-boring insects
- Many wood-boring insects infest stressed or recently cut trees

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