

A Bug's Life

Pigeon horntail

Family: Siricidae; *Tremex columba*

Fun facts

- Widely distributed in N. America
- A non-stinging wood wasp
- Females use ovipositor to deposit eggs into stressed or dying trees
- Larva bore into wood, consuming a white rot fungus and developing for up to 9 months
- Adults seen July to October
- Does not sting, bite, or harm humans or animals

Identification

Damage: Round exit holes in trees

Larva: Cream-colored, tubular-shaped body with spine at the end

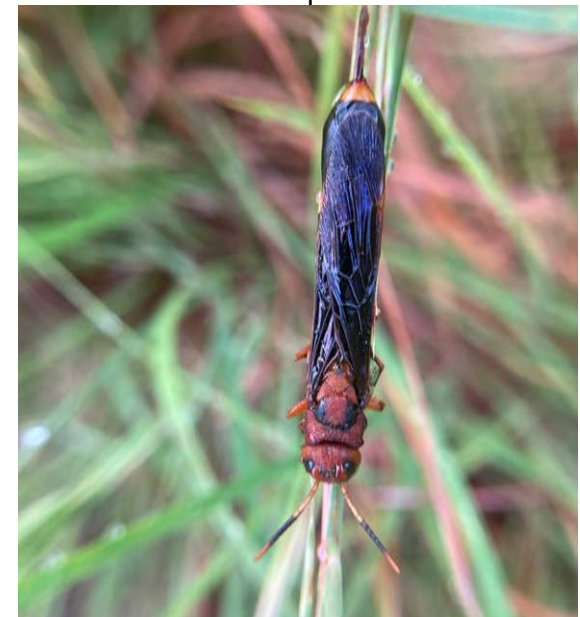
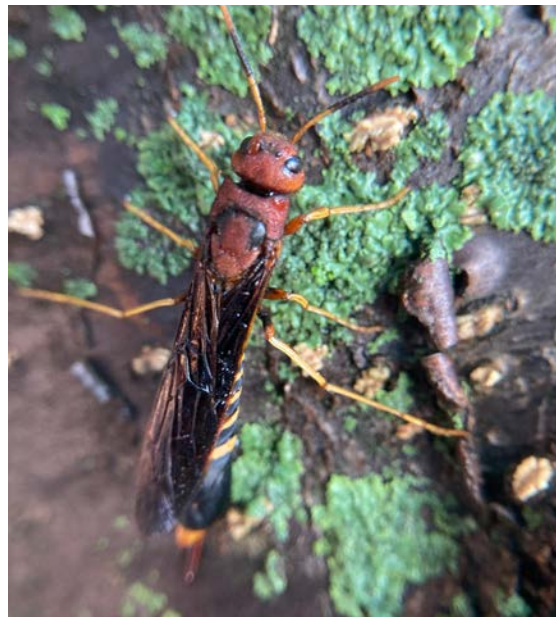
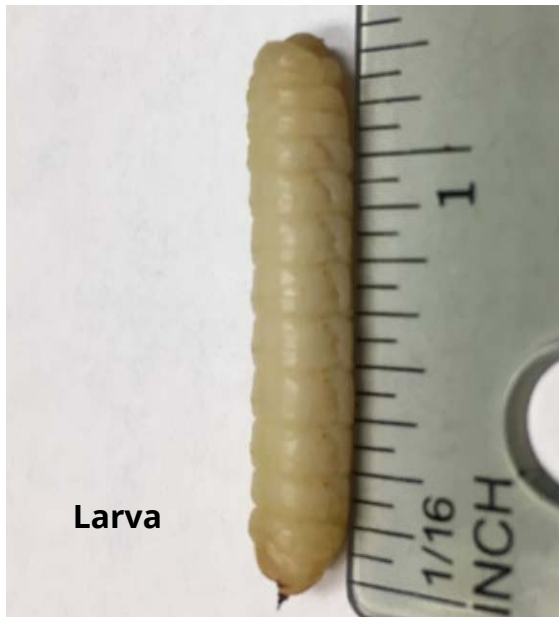
Wasp: Up to 2" long, brown and yellow cylindrical body; Females are larger than males and have a spine-like ovipositor at the end of the abdomen

Host plants

- Hardwood trees, especially maple and beech, also hackberry, hickory, oak, apple, pear, and sycamore

Management

- Horntails infest diseased, decayed, or recently cut trees
- No recommendation for control
- Natural enemy is long-tailed giant ichneumonid wasp



Photos: J. Green