



The eight-tooted spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*)



Summary

The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is widespread across Europe. However it is absent from Ireland. Ireland has protected zone status against this pest. In December 2018 it was found for the first time in the wider environment in Kent in England.

The pathway of significant introduction potential of *Ips typographus* is through the importation of untreated wood with bark from areas where the pest is known to occur. This wood may be imported as a commodity or as Wood Packaging Material (WPM). DAFM implements import provisions and inspections relating to timber, wood packaging material (pallets, crates etc), forest plants, Christmas trees and other forest products, and conducts surveys of the national forest estate for quarantine forest pests and diseases including *Ips typographus*.

Description and damage

Ips typographus is mainly a secondary pest attacking weak or damaged trees. However, populations can grow within areas of felled or windblown trees. These populations can then attack healthy trees en masse, causing widespread damage. The needles of attacked trees turn reddish-brown, and drop off within a short number of weeks.

Look out for single, or groups of dead host trees, with exit holes in the bark often accompanied with frass. Under the bark will be the presence of a larval gallery system, often accompanied by blue-stain fungi that is transferred to the tree by the beetle.

Pest Information Note 2 of 2021

Ips typographus



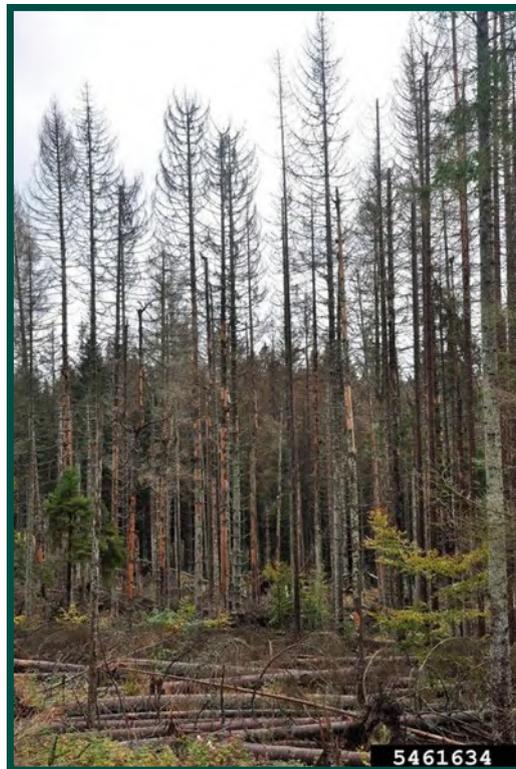
An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
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Identification

The beetle is approximately 4-5 mm long, and is dark brown. On each side of its posterior portion are four spines (which is where the beetle derives its name), the third of which is the longest and is enlarged at the tip.



Ips typographus. Photo credit: Milan Zubrik, Forest Research Institute - Slovakia, Bugwood.org

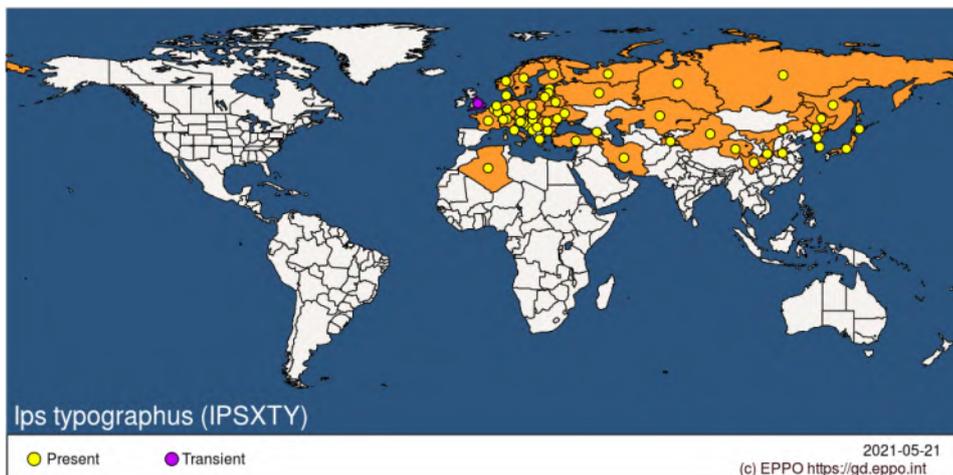


Damage caused by *Ips typographus*. Photo credit: William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org

Front page photo: Galleries. Photo credit Petr Kapitola, Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Distribution

Ips typographus is present in parts of mainland Europe, parts of Asia, and Algeria in Africa. The pest is not present in Ireland (confirmed by surveys every year), and has never been found in a forest here. The status of the pest in England is “transient, under eradication” (EPPO).



Distribution of *Ips typographus*. Source <https://gd.eppo.int/>

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Hosts

Picea abies (major host), *Abies alba*, *Abies holophylla*, *Abies nephrolepis*, *Abies nordmanniana*, *Abies sachalinensis*, *Abies sibirica*, *Larix decidua*, *Larix sibirica*, *Picea jezoensis*, *Picea orientalis*, *Pinus cembra*, *Pinus koraiensis*, *Pinus sibirica*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*. (EPPO)

Status

Ips typographus is a Protected Zone Quarantine Pest. Ireland has a protected zone status against this pest recognised by Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on protective measures against pests of plants, and imposes stricter import requirements than would apply outside protected zones within the EU. Specifically coniferous wood with bark cannot be imported into Ireland from EU countries where these beetles are known to occur unless:

- ◆ It is accompanied by an Official Statement to say the wood originates from an area known to be free from the pest OR
- ◆ The wood is free of bark OR
- ◆ The wood has been kiln dried to <20% M/C and is marked “KD”.

As the presence of the pest in England increases the level of risk of its introduction into Ireland, the Department carries out additional risk based surveys in Ireland to provide added assurance that the pest is not present or introduced. The importation of roundwood with bark from GB to Ireland is permitted but only if it originates from the officially recognised Pest Free Area (PFA) in the south west of Scotland and is accompanied by an Official Statement to attest to its origin. This Pest Free Area is routinely surveyed by the GB Authorities for the presence/absence of the regulated harmful bark beetles in order to maintain this PFA status.

As always, foresters, forest owners and other stakeholders are asked to be vigilant for unusual ill-health in trees and report any concerns to forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie or by using the Tree Check App which is freely available at: <https://www.treecheck.net>

EPPO. <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/IPSXTY>