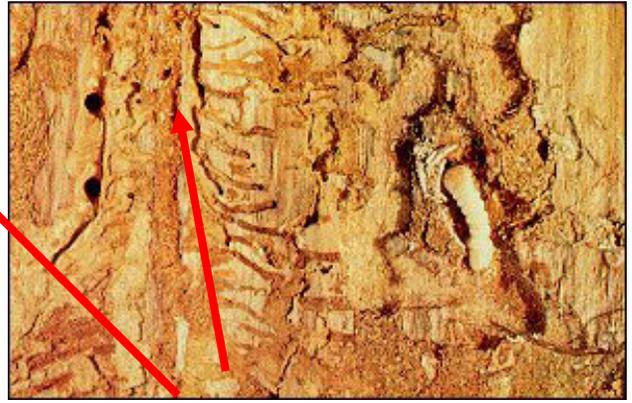
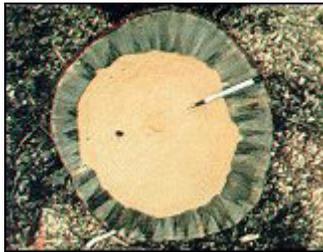


**beetle**



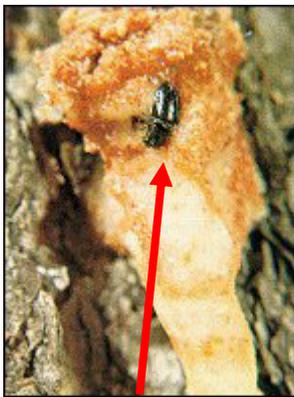
**vertical galleries**



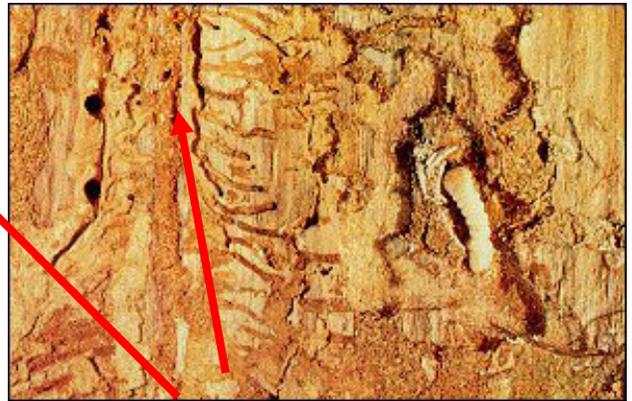
**checkered beetle  
eating pine beetle**



**USDA  
Forest  
Service**



**beetle**



**vertical galleries**



**checkered beetle  
eating pine beetle**



**USDA  
Forest  
Service**

**mountain pine beetle**  
***Dendroctonus ponderosae* Hopkins**

The beetle is native to North America where it is found from the Pacific Coast east into the Rocky Mountains. Major host trees are lodgepole, ponderosa, sugar, and white pines, but many other conifers may be attacked and killed. During outbreaks, widespread tree mortality alters the ecosystem, and leaves large areas vulnerable to wildfire.

The beetles most commonly begin their attack on the lower 15 feet of the trunk, and trees are generally killed by beetles of a single generation. Infested trees usually have pitch tubes present on the trunk and fine wood dust in bark crevices and around the tree base. The first sign of beetle-caused mortality generally is discolored foliage, fading from green to yellowish green, to red, and finally to rusty brown.

All life stages of the beetle are spent under the bark of infested trees with the exception of the few days during the summer when adult beetles fly to new trees. Under the bark, female beetles construct straight, vertical egg galleries, averaging 10 inches in length, in phloem or inner bark. They lay small white eggs along the sides of the galleries in summer and early fall. Eggs commonly hatch in about 10 to 14 days into white, legless larvae that feed on the phloem and construct galleries at right angles to the egg gallery. About 10 months later, larvae mature and chew oval cells in the bark in which they pupate. Within several days of emerging, beetles begin to attack other trees. In most localities a single generation is produced each year.

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