

PESTIMONIAL

News from the Outsmart Invasive Species Project
June 6th, 2012

Who's who? Get to know a few ALB look-a-likes

Growing awareness about the threat of the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) is encouraging more and more people to be on the lookout for this invasive pest in Massachusetts. That's great news for hardwood trees – the targets of these wood-eating beetles – but has led to some false alarms as well.

In the hunt for the elusive ALB, cases of mistaken identity are inevitable. So it's no surprise that the Outsmart Invasive Species team has received some data on ALB look-a-likes.

You should never hesitate to report a suspicious pest with the Outsmart app even if you are not positive about its identity – the Asian longhorned beetle has an appetite for destruction, so false alarms are better than no alarms. Please do make sure to submit a photo with your report to help with verification.

Spend some time getting to know the species in our Not-An-ALB Guide, and you'll soon be savvy enough to pick the "Most Wanted" beetle out of any lineup...

OUTSMART UPDATE



Total reports: 157

Top sightings:

1. Japanese knotweed (27)
2. Garlic mustard (11)
3. Burning bush (10)

What to look for now:

Japanese stiltgrass



Visit us on [Facebook](#) for ID tips and quizzes

Not-An-ALB Field Guide

White-spotted Pine Sawyer (*Monochamus scutellatus*)

Habitat: Various conifer species, including white, red and jack pines, balsam fir, and many spruces.

Appearance: Males are bronze-black with antennae twice as long as their bodies. Females are speckled brown and have slightly shorter antennae. Both sexes have a white scutellum - a small scale at the base of the wing covers.

Size: Adults range between 0.75 and 1 inches.

Key distinction: Although the ALB has numerous white spots, it lacks the white-spotted sawyer's characteristic white scutellum at the base of the wing covers.



Photos: Michael Bohne
USDA Forest Service

Northeastern Sawyer (*Monochamus notatus*)

Habitat: Dead and dying conifer species, such as white pine and balsam fir.

Appearance: Both sexes are mottled brown and white. Males have antennae about twice the length of their bodies.

Size: Adults range between 0.75 and 1.25 inches.

Key distinction: The brownish color distinguishes the Northeastern sawyer from the ALB.



Photos: Michael Bohne
USDA Forest Service

Not-An-ALB Field Guide

Broadnecked Root Borer (*Prionus laticollis*)

Habitat: Oak, chestnut, poplar and apple trees.

Appearance: Both sexes are dark brown with broad bodies. Adult males fly from May through June. Females have not been observed in flight.

Size: Adults range between 1 and 1.25 inches.

Key distinction: Unlike the ALB, the BRB has no white markings on the body, and no white bands on the antennae.



Photograph by Michael Bohne



Photograph by ALB

Photos: Michael Bohne,
USDA Forest Service

Sugar Maple Borer (*Glycobius speciosus*)

Habitat: Sugar maple trees.

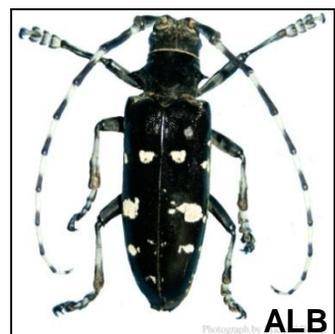
Appearance: Both sexes are shiny black with bright yellow legs and bright yellow markings on the back that form a distinct “W” shape.

Size: Adults range up to 1 inch.

Key distinction: Although sugar maple borers leave exit holes on sugar maples that look suspiciously similar to those left by the ALB, the SMB’s bold yellow and black coloration is unmistakable.



Photograph by Michael Bohne



Photograph by ALB

Photos: Michael Bohne
USDA Forest Service

Not-An-ALB Field Guide

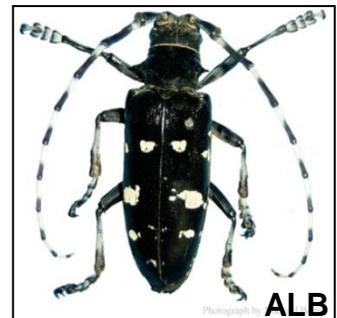
Eyed Click Beetle (*Alnus oculatus*)

Habitat: Various species of hardwood trees.

Appearance: Both sexes have salt-and-pepper coloring, with two large false eyespots on the top of the neck.

Size: Adults range between 1 and 1.75 inches.

Key distinction: Unlike the ALB, the eyed click beetle lacks white spots on the wing pads. But above all, the large eyespots indicate that you are eye-to-false-eye with a click beetle.



Photos: Michael Bohne,
USDA Forest Service

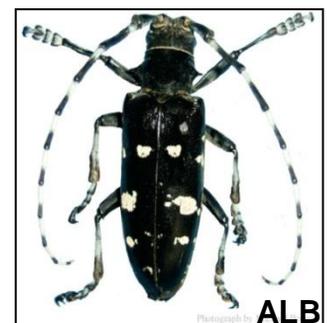
Masked Hunter (*Reduvius personatus*)

Habitat: Inside houses, in cozy spaces such as cupboards, cabinets, ducts, walls and attics

Appearance: Both sexes are dark brown in color and have straw-shaped sucking mouthparts.

Size: Adults range between to 0.75 inches.

Key distinction: The brown color and lack of white spots assures you it's not an ALB. But please proceed with caution when inspecting these bugs - masked hunters can inflict a painful bite!



Photos: Michael Bohne,
USDA Forest Service

Not-An-ALB Field Guide

Brown Prionid (*Orthosoma brunneum*)

Habitat: Dead or dying hardwood and conifer trees.

Appearance: Both sexes are solid chestnut brown in color.

Size: Adults range between 1 and 1.5 inches.

Key distinction: Unlike the ALB, this uniformly brown beetle has no white spots.



Photo: Kristin Riolo, Bugwood.net

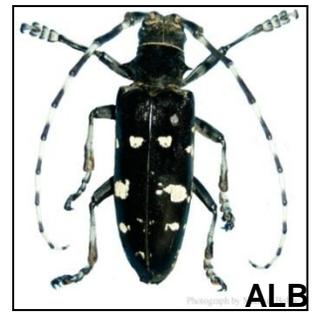


Photo: Michael Bohne, USDA Forest Service

Longhorned Beetle (*Graphisurus fasciatus*)

Habitat: Various species of hardwood trees.

Appearance: Both sexes are dark brown with grayish mottling. Antennae are long, and banded with white and dark brown.

Size: Adults range between 0.25 and 0.75 inches.

Key distinction: The camouflage-like brown and gray mottling tells you it's not an ALB. With a long pygidium, segment at the end of the abdomen, females are quite distinct!

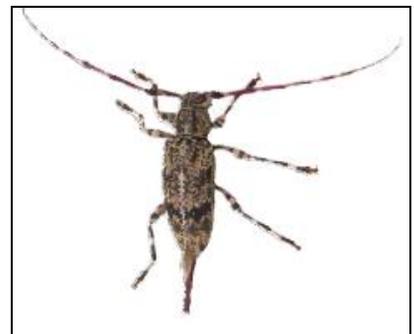


Photo: Jennifer Forman Orth, MDAR



Photo: Michael Bohne
USDA Forest Service

Rule of thumb? If you see a shiny black body, bright white spots, and long, white-banded antennae, it might be an ALB. Outsmart it!

For more information on the ALB, check out:

<http://massnrc.org/pests/alb/> and <http://www.beetlebusters.info/>

Keep up the great work! And spread the word about the Outsmart application, so we can stop the spread of invasive species.

The Outsmart Invasive Species Team

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Thanks to these great resources:

[Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources](#)

[University of Vermont Entomology Research Laboratory](#)

[Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences Extension](#)

[U.S. Forest Service Northeastern Area](#)



EDDMapS
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System



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