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Distribution and Host Plants of *Corthylus Punctatissimus* (Coleoptera: Scolytidae) in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan

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DISTRIBUTION AND HOST PLANTS OF *CORTHYLUS PUNCTATISSIMUS* (COLEOPTERA: SCOLYTIDAE) IN THE LOWER PENINSULA OF MICHIGAN

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The pitted ambrosia beetle, *Corthylus punctatissimus* Zimmerman, infests woody saplings and shrubs 14 mm in diameter or less. The beetle bores an entrance hole into the main stem at soil level and constructs a main gallery tunnel which generally spirals downward in the stem. Egg-niche construction is followed by inoculation of symbiotic fungi and oviposition. The main stem of the host tree wilts as a result of the girdling activity of the beetle. Finnegan (1967) described the life history of *C. punctatissimus* infesting *Acer saccharum* Marshall in Ontario and Quebec.

The range of *C. punctatissimus* has been recorded from Colorado and Quebec to Arkansas and South Carolina by Finnegan (1967) and Wood (1982). Wood (1982) reported a specimen of *C. punctatissimus* from Midland County in Michigan. The woody host plants from which the beetle has been recorded include *Acer saccharinum* L. (silver maple); *A. saccharum* (sugar maple); *Berberis* sp. (barberry); *Carpinus caroliniana* Walter (American hornbeam); *Cornus* sp. (dogwood); *Corylus* sp. (hazel); *Gaylussacia* sp. (huckleberry); *Ostrya* sp. (hophornbeam); *Rhododendron* sp. (azaleas and rhododendron); *Sassafras* sp. (sassafras); *Ulmus* sp. (elm); *Vaccinium* sp. (blueberry) and *Viburnum* sp. (cranberry) (Finnegan 1967, Wood 1982).

In this study infested hosts were distinguished by their wilted condition. Infested plants wilt so quickly that leaves do not undergo abscission and can remain attached even after a year's time. The infested hosts were excavated and dissected to confirm the presence of the beetle. Collection sites of *C. punctatissimus* were recorded by county, hosts, number of collections (in parentheses), and range of collection dates.

COLLECTION RECORDS

Antrim Co. *Acer saccharum*, (3) 5–8 October.
Charlevoix Co. *A. saccharum*, (1) 5 October.
Genesee Co. *Cornus* sp., (1) 7 June.
Grand Traverse Co. *A. saccharum*, (1) 7 October.
Gratiot Co. *Acer negundo* L., (1) 11 October; *Acer rubrum* L., (214) 17 April–3 November; *A. saccharum*, (186) 15 March–15 November; *Quercus rubra* L., (12) 5 June–15 September; *Prunus serotina* Ehrhart, (15) 5 June–15 September; *Ulmus americana* L., (1) 7 October.
Jackson Co. *A. saccharum*, (1) 13 September.
Kalamazoo Co. *A. saccharum*, (1) 12 August.
Lapeer Co. *P. serotina*, (1) 7 June.
Livingston Co. *A. rubrum*, (3) 13 August–18 September; *A. saccharum*, (1) 12 August; *Carpinus caroliniana*, (1) 21 August; *Cornus racemosa* Larmarck, (1) 13 August; *Corylus americana* Walter, (1) 13 August; *Quercus velutina* Lamarck, (1) 13 August.

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Montcalm Co. *A. rubrum*, (1) 6 June; *A. saccharum*, (27) 5 May–20 October; *Carpinus caroliniana*, (1) 27 September; *Cornus racemosa*, (1) 27 September; *Ostrya virginiana* (Miller) K. Koch, (1) 7 October; *Sassafras albidum* (Nuttall) Ness, (1) 21 September; *Viburnum dentatum* L., (1) 1 October; *Viburnum dentatum* L., (1) 27 September.
Montmorency Co. *A. saccharum*, (1) 20 October; *Fagus grandifolia* Ehrhart, (1) 20 October; *Amelanchier* sp., (1) 20 October.
Oakland Co. *A. rubrum*, (1) 7 June.
Oceana Co. *S. albidum*, (1) 20 October.
Osceola Co. *F. grandifolia*, (1) 1 February.
St. Joseph Co. *A. saccharum*, (1) 12 August.

This study indicates *C. punctatissimus* is widely distributed throughout the Lower Peninsula of Michigan with all collections representing new county records. New hosts include *Acer rubrum* (red maple), *A. negundo* (boxelder), *Fagus grandifolia* (American beech), *Quercus rubra* (red oak), *Q. velutina* (black oak), *Amelanchier* sp. (serviceberry), *Viburnum dentatum* (arrowwood) and *V. trilobum* (highbush cranberry). The beetle probably can infest most deciduous woody tree saplings or shrubs within its range.

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