

Sirex Woodwasp

Sirex noctilio

Native of Europe and Asia, the Sirex Woodwasp was first introduced to New York in 2004. A pest of pine trees, it is currently established in New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan, and is **not yet present in Rhode Island**.



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Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org

Identifying Features:

With a cylindrical body and spear-shaped plate at the tail end, adults range from ½ to 1½ inches long. While females and males differ in appearance both have black antennae. The head and body of females are metallic blue and their legs orange. Females have a spike-like projection on the tail end of their abdomen to protect their ovipositor. The head and thorax of males are also metallic blue. Males have black, thickened legs and their abdomen is orange in the center and black at the base and tail end. Adults are active from July through September, with a peak in August.

Larvae are cylindrical grubs that grow up to 1¼ inches long. They are creamy white in color with a dark spine located at the end of their abdomen.

Damage:

- Dripping resin as a result of female ovipositing.
- Round exit holes on tree trunks 1/8 to 3/8 of inch in diameter.
- Within the tree, serpentine larval galleries are packed tight with frass.
- Wilted foliage that turns from green to yellow to reddish-brown.

Females inject a toxic mucus and fungus when ovipositing causing host trees to be susceptible to larval feeding.

Information Sources

[European Woodwasp, Sirex noctilio](http://www.massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/european%20woodwasp.htm), 26 February 2008, 19 February 2009

<<http://www.massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/european%20woodwasp.htm>>.

[European Woodwasp, Sirex noctilio](http://pest.ceris.purdue.edu/searchpest.php?selectName=ISBBADA), 19 February 2009 <<http://pest.ceris.purdue.edu/searchpest.php?selectName=ISBBADA>>.

[Forest Pests](http://www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/plantindustry/caps/forestPests/index.html#), 2007, 19 February 2009 <<http://www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/plantindustry/caps/forestPests/index.html#>>

Image Sources

[Sirex Woodwasp, Sirex noctilio](http://www.invasive.org/search/action.cfm?q=sirex%20woodwasp&Start=1&results=78), 25 August 2008, 19 February 2009

<<http://www.invasive.org/search/action.cfm?q=sirex%20woodwasp&Start=1&results=78>>.