

# Bronze birch borer (*Agrilus anxius*)

The bronze birch borer is a wood-boring beetle which attacks all species of birch. It can kill large numbers of trees. It usually feeds on trees with trunks wider than 2 cm and branches that are at least 1 cm thick.

Larvae feeding in the tree disrupts flow of nutrients. This causes discoloration, crown thinning and branch dieback. Trees die within a few years of symptoms appearing.

**Adult beetles** are:

- Small and narrow;
- a metallic / copper colour;
- between 7-12mm long.

**Galleries:** Found under the tree bark, these are snake-like, and filled with sawdust-like waste material.

**Look out for** “D” shaped exit holes on the tree bark, around 3-5mm wide, formed by emerging adult beetles from May to mid-July.

**If you suspect it, report it by visiting** <https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/> or use the QR code.



Adult beetle (real size 7-12mm). Credit: Hanna Royals (Screening Aids, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org)



Galleries found under host bark. Credit: George Heaton (USDA Forest Service).



“D” shaped exit holes on bark of host tree. Credit: Eduard Jendek.