

# Small spruce bark beetle (*Ips amitinus*)

A bark-boring beetle found on species of spruce, pine, and larch. *Ips amitinus* are often present with the eight-toothed spruce bark beetle, and can contribute to tree mortality during an outbreak.

This beetle breeds in the upper parts of smaller-sized, weakened trees with thin bark. *Ips amitinus* galleries are found in stem sections of between 2-27cm in diameter; the beetles prefer sections with bark thickness of around 2-3mm.

## Adult beetles:

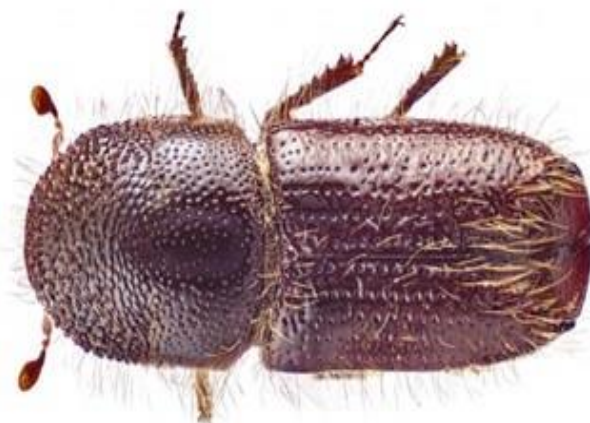
- dark brown and shiny;
- distinct puncture-type surface marks;
- between 3.5-5.0mm long;
- four spines on each side as the wing casing slopes towards its back end; the third spine of each four is distinctly rounded at the end.
- As typical of many bark beetles, they are bullet-shaped (at least twice as long as they are wide).

**Galleries:** Commonly, 3-5 females will create a gallery under bark. These galleries create a star shape outwards from the central chamber. These can bend and run in opposite directions.

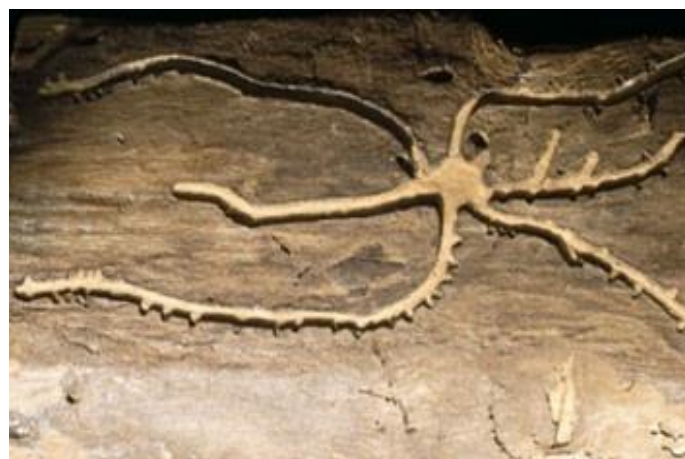
**Look out for** adult beetles in leaf litter or on bark/woody material in June-August.

**If you suspect it, report it by visiting**

<https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/> or use the QR code.



Adult *Ips amitinus* beetle. Credit: Gilles San Martin



*Ips amitinus* "star" shaped galleries found under host bark. Credit: Stainslaw Kinelski



*Ips amitinus* beetle on pins displaying capitate third spine. Credit: Ken Walker (Museum Victoria)