

Northern bark beetle (*Ips duplicatus*)

A **wood-boring beetle** that feeds on weakened standing trees, preferring older trees with thinner bark on upper sections. The main hosts include spruce, pine, larch and, in exceptional cases, fir and juniper.

Adult beetles:

- are dark-brown, shiny and hairy with puncture-type marks across the surface;
- are bullet-shaped (at least twice as long as they are wide);
- are usually around 2.6-4.3mm long;
- display four spines on each side of the posterior.

Galleries: This beetle produces a gallery system very similar to the eight-toothed spruce bark beetle, yet smaller (7-10cm) with maternal galleries from around 1-5 females.

Look out for crown discolouration, turning from brown to grey once the needles have shed. A sawdust-like substance (frass) on the bark surface and base of the tree may be seen in sunny, dry weather.

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



Adult beetle. Credit: Pest and Disease Image Library (Bugwood.org)



Galleries in a "Y" shape. Credit: Petr Kapitola (Bugwood.org)



Posterior spines. Credit: Pest and Diseases Image Library (Bugwood.org)