

Larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*)

A wood-boring beetle that feeds on spruce. Other conifer species may be vulnerable in outbreak conditions.

It typically prefers dead, stressed or weakened trees. Ips beetles are capable of spreading blue stain fungus (a pathogenic fungus). An infection of both this beetle and fungi can create excessive stress on the tree, leading to mortality.

Adult beetles:

- are approx. 4.0-5.5 mm long;
- have a brown-dark brown shiny, hairy cylindrical shape;
- have distinctive spines on their posterior end.
- As typical of many bark beetles, they are bullet-shaped (at least twice as long as they are wide).
- Antennae are present and become wider towards the tip.

Look out for discoloured crowns; sawdust-like substance (frass) on the bark of trees, and entrance holes in the bark surface made by the beetles. Female beetle galleries – found under bark – vary in length but average around 10-12cm in length.

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



Adult beetle. Credit: Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary FRI (Bugwood.org)



Damage to infested forest. Credit: Milan Zubrik (Bugwood.org)



Galleries. Credit: Milan Zubrik, FRI Slovakia (Bugwood.org)