



Ventura and Los Angeles County Bad Beetle Watch

Become a detection detective

Contribute valuable data on the distribution and spread of the Invasive Shot Hole Borers (Polyphagous and Kuroshio) and the Goldspotted Oak Borer!

Get Started:

1. Focus on 8 species. It doesn't matter where they are located.

- Box elder (*Acer negundo*) -Arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*)
- Red willow (*Salix laevigata*)
- California or western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)
- London plane sycamore (*Platanus x acerifolia*)
- Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) – Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)
- Castor bean (*Ricinus communis*)

Handy to have:

Medium ball point pen (MUST), flashlight, magnifier, scraping tool (pocketknife), alcohol / cloth for disinfecting scraping tool

2. Take the ISHB online training at www.ishb.org

3. Download the iNaturalist app. Join the "Ventura and LA County Bad Beetle Watch" project.

(Won't work unless you have cell service)

4. Be safe! Watch your step, look up, look down, look around.

5. IMPORTANT: Turn on location services for your phone, iNaturalist app, and camera.

6. Find a tree from the above list. Pick trees with at least a 4" diameter. No evidence of infestation? We want this data too!

7. You are ready to make your first observation!!

Collect Data (Make observation)

1. Click the OBSERVE button in iNaturalist
2. Walk around the tree. Look up, look down. Take 3 photos for infested tree (examples on back).
3. What do you see? *Euwallacea* complex....Leave blank for noninfested tree.
4. Check your map
5. Geoprivacy- open or obscured.
6. Captive/Cultivated?
7. Projects-Ventura and LA County Bad Beetle Watch
8. These data fields:

*Name of Host Plant. Common names and abbreviations are fine (see species list above).

*Tree Circumference at Breast Height. *Tree Height-Rough Estimate. *Infestation Level.

*Crown Dieback. *Evidence of Staining, Frass, Both, or None. *Sample Taken? *Presence of Live Beetles. *Notes of interest. *Curator_notes - leave blank.

Editing tips. To change data in the above fields, turn the project button on/off, check data then hit back button. Click done to save.

You are done! Thank you!





Photo 1 –

MUST INCLUDE MEDIUM BALL POINT PEN

Include beetle hole and pen for scale and point out exact location of the suspected or known beetle hole. Make sure not to cover the hole itself but be within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the hole. In some cases, you may be able to see a black roundish thing poking out of the hole; this is a beetle abdomen. **If no holes are found and the tree is absent of beetles, skip this photo. Beetle-free trees will only contain two photos.**



Photo 2 – Photo of leaves, flowers, and/or fruit to identify tree species.



Photo 3 – Photo of entire tree canopy. This will be the hardest photo to take. Step back far enough from the tree to see the entire tree canopy. For the best photo, aim to have the sun behind you. Watch your step.