

Banded Alder Borer

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The banded alder borer, *Rosalia funebris* Motschulsky, is a member of the beetle family known as Cerambycidae. This family is known collectively as the long horned wood boring beetles. The banded alder borer is the only species of this genus in North America, occurring from Alaska to southern California and in the Rocky Mountains from Idaho to New Mexico. The larvae bore in the trunks of dead *Acer*, *Alnus*, *Fraxinus*, *Platanus*, *Quercus*, *Salix*, and *Umbellularia californica*, but are not recorded as economically damaging. The adults (Fig. 1) are elongate, flattened, parallel-sided beetles about 25 to 35 mm long. The body and long antennae are conspicuously black-and-white banded. The adults usually are encountered singly in summer, but occasionally they are attracted in numbers to fresh paint. The banded alder borer is not a pest and there is no need for control. Incidentally, adults of this species are highly prized by collectors, and retail outlets that sell insects to collectors charge an impressive price for good specimens.



Fig. 1. Adult banded alder borer.
Author unknown.



Fig. 2. A larval cerambycid
By J. Capizzi.