

# locust borer

## *Meacyllene robiniae*

### FEATURES

The locust borer is a type of long-horned beetle. In size, the adult ranges from four-tenths to slightly more than one inch in length. The antennae are black and serrated. Many yellow markings are present on a black background. A similar species has white and yellow bands. The ventral side has more yellow coloring than black.

### BEHAVIORS

Adults are often found on goldenrod plants from June through November. Eggs are laid in the fall on black locust trees (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Larvae hatch and hibernate under the bark. They become active in spring, tunneling in the heartwood of the tree until they pupate in late July or early August. The larvae are considered serious pests of black locust trees. Originally from the northeastern United States, this insect has spread as black locust trees have been planted throughout the country.

### TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Arthropoda  
Class: Insecta  
Order: Coleoptera  
Family: Cerambycidae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, nonnative

### ILLINOIS RANGE







### **Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests

### **Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests; upland deciduous forests

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

edge