

POPLAR BLACK MINE BEETLE—*Zengophora scutellaris*

HOSTS: Cottonwood and other poplars

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE: Adult beetles are 4 to 4.5 mm long and have a corn-yellow head and thorax with black wing covers.

In autumn larvae drop to the ground and spend winter in the upper layers of soil. Pupation and adult emergence occur during May and June. Beetles skeletonize small patches of leaf tissue in late June and during July. Eggs are laid on leaves and twigs. During July and August white, legless larvae mine large irregular areas between leaf surfaces that turn black.

Damage is unsightly and becomes conspicuous in late summer.

CONTROL: Spray leaves with carbaryl, malathion, or fluvalinate in late June when adults are feeding. Rake and dispose of leaves immediately after they drop and before larvae enter the soil.



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