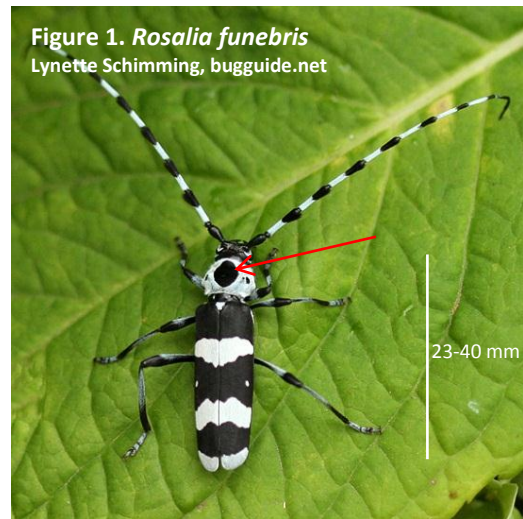


The Banded Alder Borer *Rosalia funebris*

Hosts: Alder, Ash, California Laurel, occasionally other hardwoods

The Banded Alder Borer, BAB for short, is an exotic looking beetle that may be encountered from March to August in the Pacific Northwest. With their striking white-blue and black coloration, BAB adults are frequently mistaken for the Asian Longhorn beetle. The Asian Longhorn Beetle is a damaging exotic pest that is not known to be established in Oregon. The easiest way to distinguish these two species is to look at the segment directly behind the head. On the Asian Longhorn Beetle the area is entirely shiny black while on the BAB the area is white with a single, large black spot that occupies 60% or more of the segment (see red arrow on Fig. 1).



Adult BAB females lay their eggs individually on small to medium sized dead branches. The eggs hatch within 7-14 days and the larvae feed for 6-7 months under the bark. The larvae then bore into the center of the twig to overwinter as pupae. In spring, pupae complete their development and adults chew their way out of the branch. Since BAB larvae only feed in dead branches, the damage caused by this insect is rarely noticed. There have been a few accounts of BAB adults being attracted to drying paint (presumably to the odor). So don't be surprised if this insect shows up the next time your house is painted.



Xylotrechus mormonus

Monochamus scutellatus

Semanotus amethystinus

Xylotrechus longitarsus

Tetropium abietis

Centrodera spurca

Figure 2. Other Longhorn Beetles commonly encountered by Oregon homeowners [Acknowledgements: *X. mormonus* and *X. longitarsus* (Steven Valley, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org), *M. scutellatus* (Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry Archive, Bugwood.org), *S. amethystinus* and *T. abietis* (M.S. Caterino/SBMNH), *C. spurca* (Nathan Lord, University of New Mexico, Bugwood.org)]