

## *Melanophila picta*

(Metallic wood-boring beetle)

### What does it attack?

It attacks young poplars that are weakened or have wounds.

### How to identify it?

The adult is 1.5 cm long, with a dark body and yellowish circular spots on its wings (**Fig. 1**).

Flattened larvae, yellowish in color, with a very large head (**Fig. 2**).

Larval galleries with an elliptical section and filled with very fine sawdust (**Fig. 2**).

Detachment of the bark plates in the affected areas.

### What damage does it cause?

The larvae are introduced, firstly, under the bark of the trunk, causing its detachment in fragments and disrupting the circulation of the sap. If they ring the bark of the trunk, they cause the death of the tree.

Subsequently, they hollow out galleries in the wood, which makes it useless for merchantable timber products such as plywood.

### When to see it?

The adults can be observed from May to June on the trunks and branches. The larvae are inside the trunk for most of the year.

The necrosis and detachment of bark plates can be seen in summer.

You can find more information about this pest by clicking on this [link](#).



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**