

Research Note

XYLOSANDRUS COMPACTUS (EICHOFF), COLEOPTERA:SCOLYTIDAE, THE BLACK TWIG BORER ATTACKING COFFEE IN PUERTO RICO¹

Xylosandrus compactus (Eichoff), known as the black twig borer (fig. 1), is a new pest of coffee branchlets in Puerto Rico. It was previously recorded from Puerto Rico attacking *Cattleya* pseudobulbs in a greenhouse at Barranquitas.² This scolytid beetle was collected in Utuado, Bo. Tetuán no. 2, Rd. 613, km 615 by S. Medina-Gaud and R. A. Franqui 11 May 1989, doing damage to coffee (*Coffea arabica*). In coffee (*Coffea arabica*) it was making very small round bores (fig. 2) on dry branchlets or partially dry parts devoid of leaves. All the life cycle stages were found in the attacked branchlets. Voucher specimens, P. R. Acc. No. 60-89 were deposited in the Museum of Entomology at the Agricultural Experiment Station in Río Piedras.

The specimens were identified by D. M. Anderson from the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, BBII, USDA, Beltsville, Maryland. He also provided additional records from Puerto Rico: two specimens collected in Sabana Grande in 1982; three from Cuba and one from St. Croix. Additional specimens doing damage to green coffee branchlets were collected by F. Gallardo 13 July 1990 in Adjuntas, Bo. Yahuecas. Voucher specimens were preserved and deposited in our museum under P. R. Acc. No. 153-90.

According to Wood (1982),³ this is a very dark brown to almost black species; elytra weakly arched; striae not impressed, punctures small, distinct, rather shallow; interstriae smooth, shiny, four times as wide

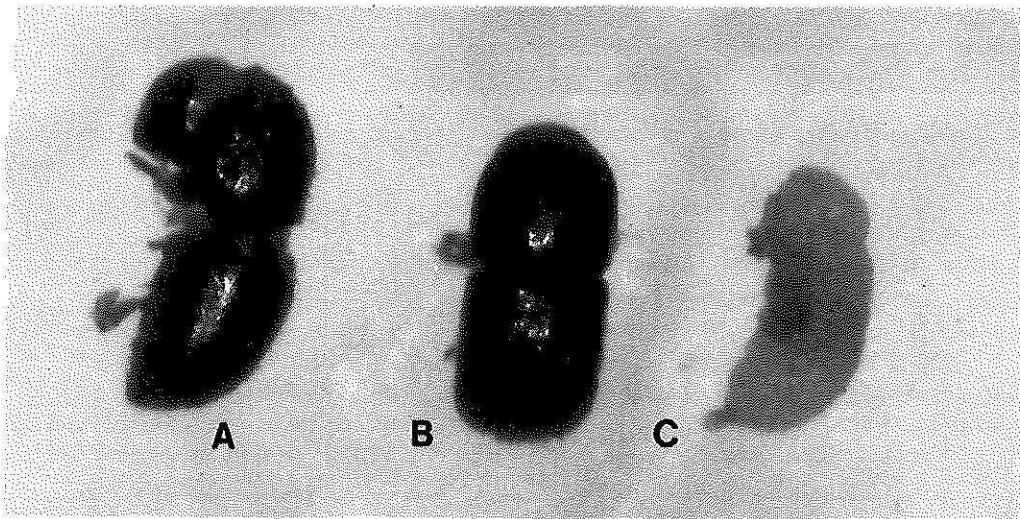


Fig. 1.—The black twig borer, *Xylosandrus compactus* (Eichoff); a & b. adults, dorsal and lateral; c, larvae.

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²Martorell, L. F. and S. Medina-Gaud, 1974. Orchid pest in Puerto Rico. *J. Agric. Univ. P. R.* 58 (1): 105-24.

³Wood, S. L., 1982. The bark and ambrosia beetles of North and Central America (Coleoptera:Scolytidae) a taxonomic monograph. *Great Basin Nat. Mem.* 6: 1-1359.

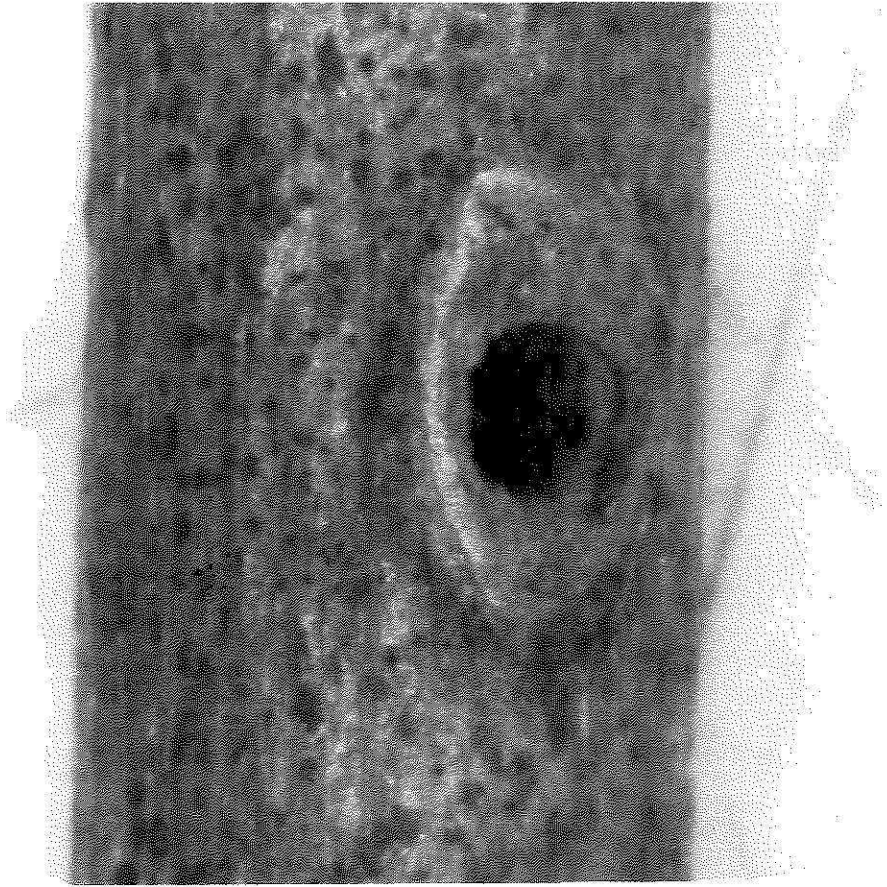


Fig. 2.—Damage to coffee branchlets caused by *Xylosandrus compactus* (Eichoff).

as striae, punctures small, uniseriate, not at all granulate. Sculpture on disc except interstitial punctures finely granulate. Vestiture of rows of fine, short, strial hair and rows of longer, slender, pointed, interstitial hair; slightly longer, declivity; length 1.4-1.7 mm (female), 1.0-1.1 (male).

According to Wood (1982),² this species is of primary importance in horticultural and ornamental plants. It is a widely distributed species found in the U.S.A. from Louisiana to Alabama and Florida, also in

Brazil, Cuba, Hawaii, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), and Africa.

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