

**VALLEY ELDERBERRY LONGHORN BEETLE
(DESMOCERUS CALIFORNICAS DIMORPHUS)**

Federal/California status: Threatened/--



Description

Valley elderberry longhorn beetles are about 1 inch (2.5 cm) long and have a distinctive appearance. They have elongated, rounded bodies and long antennae. The shell of the male beetle is bright red-orange with dark, metallic green (almost black) blotches. Females have a dark metallic green shell with bright reddish orange border.

Habitat

Adults are most likely to be seen in May or June. They can be seen on and under flowers, leaves and stems of elderberry plants which grow along creeks and streams. The beetles feed on elderberry leaves and lay eggs under the stems. Larva burrow into and feed on the elderberry stems. A sign of the presence of this beetle is the tiny exit holes (about 1/16 inches in size) on the elderberry plant.

Range/distribution

Valley elderberry longhorn beetles may be found in elderberry bushes in the Central Valley. They occur in Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, and Yolo counties.

Photos: Photo of Beetle: © Charles Webber, California Academy of Sciences from Calphotos:
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