

## Oak Splendour Beetle; Metallic Beetle

**Order:** Coleoptera

**Family:** Buprestidae

**Scientific name:** *Agrilus biguttatus*

**Life cycle:** *A. biguttatus* reportedly feeds on a dozen hosts in the Fagaceae family including Beech (*Fagus* sp.), Chestnut (*Castanea* sp.), and at least 8 Oak species (*Quercus suber*, *Q. robur*, *Q. pubescens*, *Q. patraea*, *Q. cerris*, *Q. ilex*, *Q. rubra*, *Q. pyrenaica*). The insect has 1-2 generations annually. Females oviposit preferentially in fresh, moist wood with ample sun exposure. Declining, (but not dead), older, larger diameter (30-40 cm) trees are preferred. Adults emerge from D-shaped exit holes between May and August. Following emergence, adults feed on foliage in the tree crown. Females lay clusters of 5-6 eggs in bark crevasses from May to early August. Eggs typically hatch after 1-2 weeks and the larvae bore through the bark and form stair-step/zig-zag galleries in the inner bark, cambium and outer sapwood of the tree.



adults



larva



Louis-Michel Nageleisen

larva

galleries