

RECOGNITION OF ADULTS OF *SIREX NOCTILIO* AMONG SPECIES OF THE GENUS *SIREX* IN NORTH AMERICA

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ABSTRACT

Among the seven genera of the New World, *Sirex* is the most diverse. Schiff et al. (2006) list 10 species of *Sirex*. Work in progress with D.R. Smith (Washington, DC) and N.M. Schiff (Stoneville, MS) brings several changes among the named species and new species for a total of 11 species.

The family Siricidae and the genus *Sirex* are characterized. Special characters are pointed out to allow for fast field recognition. Then, characters to segregate both sexes of *Sirex noctilio* are shown. Old characters presented in previous papers and new characters found recently are discussed. Segregating characters include puncture development on the dorsal surface of the head and sculpture development

around punctures of the mesoscutum in both the female and male, tarsal pad and ovipositor pit development in the female, and hind leg color patterns in the male. With clean and freshly collected or alcohol-preserved specimens, it should be possible to sort out adults of *S. noctilio* in the field anywhere in North America using a 10 to 20 times magnifying lens.

Literature Cited

Schiff, Nathan M.; Valley, Steven A.; LaBonte, James R.; Smith, David R. 2006. **Guide to the siricid woodwasps of North America**. Forest Service, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team. 102 p.