

The Mexican Pine Beetle (*Dendroctonus mexicanus*), Our “Newest” Invasive Species

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Abstract

The Mexican pine beetle, *Dendroctonus mexicanus* Hopkins (XPB), is recorded here for the first time as a new introduction for the U.S. Individuals of this species are occupying the same logs of *Pinus leiophylla* and several other pines in the Chiricahua mountains, AZ with the sibling species of XPB, the southern pine beetle, *D. frontalis* Zimmermann (SPB). Both species are also caught in Lindgren traps baited with southern- and western pine beetle attractants, both of which contain the pheromone frontalure. XPB outnumbered SPB 20-1 in the traps, perhaps because XPB is better adapted to the 2000m elevations. Both XPB and SPB are highly destructive to pines, and XPB could pose a real threat if accidentally introduced to pines the higher elevations of the eastern U.S.