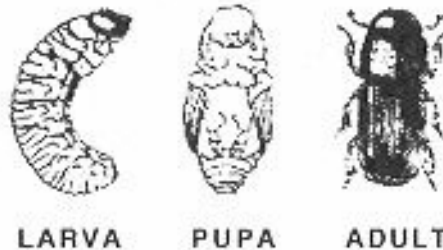


[From Fall 1996]

Pine Beetle Activity Low

Good news on the Southern Pine Beetle battle front! Recent aerial and ground surveys have found no significant advancement of the infestation. On August 7, Rusty Rhea, Forest Service-Forest Health, Asheville, NC; Howard Schlegel, Pest Management, Division of Refuges, Washington Office; and Allen Carter, FWS Region 5, Regional Forest Management Coordinator, Suffolk, VA, visited Chincoteague Refuge to evaluate Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) activity in the loblolly pine habitat of the endangered Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel. Beetle activity was found only in one area (Woodland Trail), with two small sites along Toms Cove with about 3-4 trees each. This low activity appears to confirm the results of a study conducted this spring on the refuge. In cooperation with the Forest Service-Forest Health Office and the Chincoteague High School Biology Department trapping for SPB and checkered beetles (SPB predators) was conducted in early May. Data from that program appeared to indicate that SPB activity would be low this season. The results from this inspection appear to have confirmed this observation. However, beetle activity was observed not from SPB but turpentine beetles. These beetles were documented active along the Service Road and Woodland Trail. However, according to the forest pest entomologist, turpentine beetles do not normally kill trees, except when they mass attack, which is rare. Ground and aerial surveys will continue to be conducted throughout the late summer and fall to detect any new beetle activity.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE (ENLARGED 6X)



*Irvin Ailes,
Refuge Biologist*