

A quick overview of the Southern Pine Beetle



Popcorn covered Scotch pine bark. The popcorn is actually pitch exuded by the tree in an attempt to repel the pine bark beetle.



A close-up of a southern pine beetle successfully 'pitched out' by the tree. Most pitch tubes look open at the center.



The typical curving galleries of the southern pine beetle. This is on the inner bark. The shape of their galleries is one of the distinguishing features of the insect. (Visible larvae are not SPB.)



The blue staining of the wood that accompanies the attack by the southern pine beetles. It is actually the blue stain fungus that kills the tree, although the damage to phloem by the beetle does not help. (Thanks to Dr. Arango at CAES for providing photos)