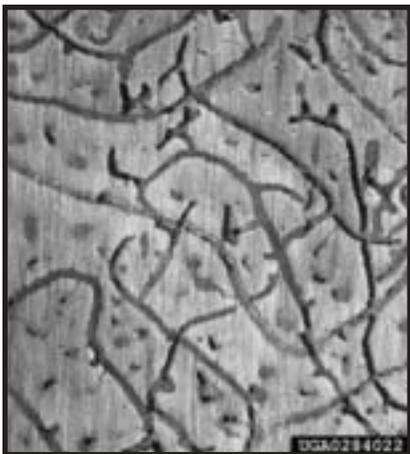


Status of the Southern Pine Beetle in 2001

By *Jim Hyland*, Forest Health Specialist, Alabama Forestry Commission, Montgomery

The April/May 2001 aerial flights showed that the NorthWest (NW) Region contained the vast majority of the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) infestations in Alabama. Fifty-two counties had SPB populations and 27 of these were considered epidemic. There were 3,018 spots statewide containing 1,053,436 infested trees (NW Region had 2,351 spots and 1,027,176 infested trees). Counties with the worst infestations were Winston, Walker, Marion, Franklin, Cullman, Jefferson, Shelby, Colbert, and Fayette. Even with these seemingly high numbers flights were showing improvement in reduced numbers of spots.

In June/July, aerial flights showed that the NW Region still had the majority of the SPB infestations. There were 52 counties with SPB populations with 31 of these being epidemic, an increase from the April/May flight. Statewide there were 2,540 spots containing 462,124 infested trees (NW Region had 1,350 spots and 426,859 infested trees). The statewide problem had decreased since April/May by 500 spots and



S-shaped galleries made under pine bark by the Southern Pine Beetle.

591,000 infested trees. The worst counties were Cullman, Walker, Marion, Morgan, Jefferson, Shelby, Conecuh, Winston and Franklin.

These numbers were significantly high, but compared to the 16,000 spots found statewide in July 2000 it seems as if Alabama had little problem with beetle infestations in 2001. The stumpage value of killed trees is estimated at \$34 million.

Landowners with beetle infestations in 2000 were quicker to respond this year than last.

The August/September aerial flights showed that the NW Region continued to have the majority of SPB infestations. There were 52 counties with SPB populations and 45 of these were epidemic, an increase from the June/July flight. Across the state there were 4,977 spots containing 530,678 infested trees (NW Region had 2,376 spots and 424,893 infested trees). The statewide problem had increased since June/July by 2,437 spots and 67,819 infested trees. However, the average infestation size had decreased from 178 trees per spot in July to 106 trees per spot. Counties worst hit were Shelby, Jefferson, Walker, Coosa, Tuscaloosa, Calhoun, Cullman, Bibb, Fayette, and St. Clair.

Again, these numbers seem significantly high but when compared to 14,290 spots containing 903,828 infested trees found in September 2000, it seems like Alabama had little problem. The stumpage value of killed trees for 2001 is estimated at \$71 million.



"Boring dust" left on the forest floor by the Southern Pine Beetle.

With the wetter weather this past year the spots did not grow at the same rate as in 2000, therefore more spots were controlled. However, a mild winter will cause the infestations to continue and explode this spring. Landowners should try to control all their infestations this winter. Every spot controlled this winter will prevent ten spots from being active in the spring.

Statewide in 2001 there were a total of 10,861 Southern Pine Beetle infestations. Landowners controlled 6,948 of these spots, giving a statewide control rate of 64%. There were 42,684 cords and 6,979,000 board feet reported salvaged.

The pulpwood market is still reduced, so the majority of control continues to be by the "cut and leave" method instead of salvage. If landowners can get a salvage control crew they should expect to get lower stumpage prices for their pulpwood.

See the tables on page 15 for regional and statewide 2001 SPB data. ♣

Southern Pine Beetle Control Data for Fiscal Year 2000-2001

NorthWest Region						SouthEast Region					
County	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvaged Cords	Salvaged MBF	County	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvaged Cords	Salvaged MBF
Bibb	291	111	38	370	0	Barbour	24	3	13	0	0
Colbert	247	177	72	8,635	30	Bullock	135	17	13	0	0
Cullman	414	300	72	533	139	Butler	95	7	7	0	0
Fayette	722	592	82	3,643	142	Coffee	3	3	100	0	0
Franklin	323	228	71	1,567	90	Covington	9	6	67	107	0
Jefferson	496	287	58	551	227	Crenshaw	18	7	39	0	0
Lamar	160	158	99	3,876	49	Dale	1	1	100	0	0
Lauderdale	79	65	82	169	66	Elmore	73	47	64	180	9
Lawrence	102	95	93	166	550	Geneva	0	0	N/A	0	0
Limestone	52	49	94	0	0	Henry	0	0	N/A	0	0
Marion	468	382	82	667	84	Houston	0	0	N/A	0	0
Morgan	125	86	69	0	0	Lee	32	14	44	175	0
Pickens	113	113	100	438	50	Lowndes	106	12	11	2,399	16
Shelby	694	325	47	298	0	Macon	67	51	76	0	0
Tuscaloosa	476	296	62	2,802	453	Montgomery	2	0	0	0	0
Walker	983	690	70	142	0	Pike	0	0	N/A	0	0
Winston	682	637	93	5,749	5,340	Russell	131	34	26	75	0
Total	6,427	4,591	71	29,606	6,725	Total	696	202	29	2,629	25

NorthEast Region						SouthWest Region					
County	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvaged Cords	Salvaged MBF	County	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvaged Cords	Salvaged MBF
Blount	102	40	69	1,000	0	Autauga	47	16	34	0	0
Calhoun	266	113	42	2,309	0	Baldwin	15	15	100	0	0
Chambers	41	14	34	125	0	Chilton	159	10	6	141	0
Cherokee	179	136	76	0	0	Choctaw	5	5	100	80	0
Clay	129	90	70	830	0	Clarke	40	40	100	800	9
Cleburne	169	75	44	200	0	Conecuh	310	276	89	820	0
Coosa	290	68	23	520	0	Dallas	96	64	67	50	10
DeKalb	102	23	23	0	0	Escambia	124	87	70	0	0
Etowah	64	36	56	0	0	Greene	26	18	69	37	0
Jackson	103	34	33	321	77	Hale	24	24	100	6	0
Madison	58	19	20	30	0	Marengo	54	54	100	0	0
Marshall	123	7	6	84	14	Monroe	74	72	97	0	0
Randolph	127	108	85	0	0	Perry	119	87	73	0	0
St. Clair	328	285	87	300	22	Sumter	49	49	100	0	0
Talladega	222	128	58	1,970	0	Washington	11	11	100	0	0
Tallapoosa	138	94	68	467	2	Wilcox	128	54	42	358	95
Total	2,441	1,207	49	8,156	115	Total	1,297	948	73	2,292	114

Statewide Control Data					
Region	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvaged Cords	Salvaged MBF
NorthWest	6,427	4,591	71	29,606	6,725
NorthEast	2,441	1,207	49	8,156	115
SouthEast	696	202	29	2,629	25
SouthWest	1,297	948	73	2,292	114
Total	10,861	6,948	64	42,684	6,979