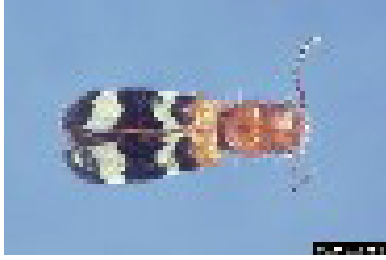
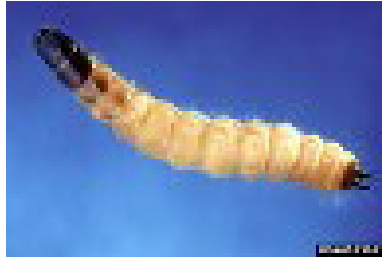


**adult**



**larva**

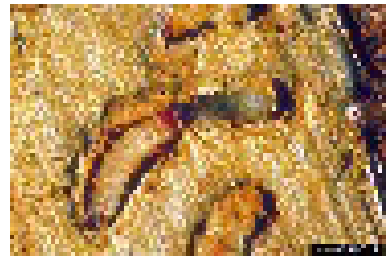
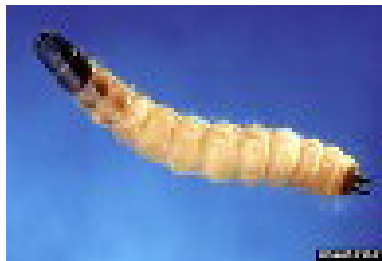


**The Bugwood Network and USDA Forest Service**

**adult**



**larva**



**The Bugwood Network and USDA Forest Service**

**checkered beetle**  
***Thanasimus dubius* (Fabricius)**

Checkered beetles in the family Cleridae are among the most important insect predators attacking forest insect pests. Adults of most species are active, antlike, brightly colored, hairy beetles that prey on adult beetles. Larvae live in the galleries and tunnels of bark beetles and woodborers and destroy the immature stages of these insects.

*Thanasimus dubius* is one of the most important predators of destructive bark beetles in the Eastern United States. The adult is 7 to 10 mm long with the head, thorax, and base of the wing covers being a dull red. The antennae and legs are red to black, and the wing covers are mostly black with crossbands of whitish hairs. The larva is elongate, spindle-shaped, and purplish with several dark brown hardened areas on the body.

Winter is spent in the larval, pupal, or adult stages. In early spring, the adults emerge and fly to bark beetle-infested trees or logs and feed on the adult prey as they emerge from hibernation. Eggs are deposited in entrances to bark beetle galleries. Young checkered beetle larvae feed on bark beetle eggs; older ones feed on host larvae, pupae, and adults. Pupation occurs in cells in the outer bark.

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