

We have recently received some bur oak samples in the Schutter Lab in Bozeman that have sustained serious woodpecker injury. The tops of the trees have been stripped of their bark (Fig. 1,2), and many wasp larvae are situated right underneath the bark (Fig. 3). This damage has also been seen in Fort Collins, CO, Madison, WI, and in Fargo, ND.

Whitney Cranshaw believes the wasp species is *Callirhytis flavipes*, which has an overwintering stage in chambers under the bark. They produce a small swelling on the bark, but it is very inconspicuous. The overwintering wasps appear to emerge shortly after bud break and then lay eggs in/near the leaf midribs, producing an irregular swelling of the leaf in summer.

Although the wasp isn't a new species, the woodpecker damage has not been previously documented. We are interested in collecting more observations and bur oak samples. If you have any bur oak samples that have similar damage to the pictures below, please send a sample to:

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Figure 1. Woodpecker damage to bur oak.



Figure 2. Woodpecker damage to bur oak branch.



Figure 1. Wasp larvae underneath bark.