

Aradus angularis

Description: *Aradus angularis* belongs to the family of flat bugs. It is 4 to 5 mm in length and has a very flat body. It is black or dark black and brown in colour. *Aradus angularis* is similar to other flat bugs in its appearance.

Life cycle: An adult *Aradus angularis* lays its eggs on the trunk of a dead tree after a forest fire. The eggs develop into larvae that resemble the adult. *Aradus angularis* has five different larval (or nymph) stages before the individual becomes an adult. Individuals of different ages may live on the same tree trunk.

Food: *Aradus angularis* sucks fluids from the rhizomes and fruiting bodies of wood-decay fungi under the bark at the base of a tree trunk. Both adults and nymphs use the same food source.

Tree species: Spruce and pine.

Decaying wood type: Scorched, often rather large spruce and pine snags.

Habitats: Forest fire sites and forests treated by prescribed burning.

Distribution: Mainly a species of the boreal zone, which has been found in the eastern and northern parts of Finland.

Status: Vulnerable.

Status under legislation: Protected, listed in EU Habitats Directive Annex II.



Recommendations for habitat management on forestry land

- Leaving sturdy or relatively sturdy spruces and pines (diameter at chest height at least 15 cm) that have been damaged by fire on the forest fire site. Under the Forest Damages Prevention Act, at most 10 cubic metres per hectare of damaged spruces and 20 hectares of pines with a butt diameter of over 10 cm may be left in the forest.
- Prescribed burning of regeneration sites and retention tree groups for ecological management purposes. The site to be burned should have sturdy or relatively sturdy spruces or pines.

Further information:

Rintala, T. and Rinne, V. 2010. Suomen luteet. Hyönteistarvike Tibiale Oy, Helsinki.