

Xyletinus tremulicola

Description: *Xyletinus tremulicola* is a small black and brown beetle approx. 4 mm in length. It has a hood-like, convex pronotum and spherical body. The larvae are small, curved and white. They have visible legs, unlike such species as bark beetles.

Life cycle: The length of the larval stage is two years, after which the larvae pupate inside the bark in early summer. Adult beetles are active in June and July.

Food: The larvae feed on the bark of aspens.

Tree species: Aspen

Decaying wood type: Damaged live and dead aspens. Particularly snags.

Habitats: Mixed forests with plenty of live and dead aspens.

Distribution: A species of the boreal zone. Occurs in Finland roughly as far north as Rovaniemi.

Status: Vulnerable.

Status under legislation: A species under strict protection, listed in EU Habitats Directive Annex II.



Recommendations for habitat management on forestry land

- Supporting the regeneration of aspens by retaining game thickets with aspen seedlings in the young stand stage. Supporting the regeneration of aspens is particularly important in the vicinity of protected areas.
- Retaining aspens of different ages as a mix of deciduous trees and in retention tree groups.
- Retaining sturdy (over 40 cm) hollow aspens in all forest management actions.
- When harvesting, retaining dead aspens. Care should be taken not to damage decaying wood on the ground when harvesting.
- Creating artificial aspen snags in connection with clear felling and continuous cover forestry.



Stout aspen is a suitable habitat for *Xyletinus tremulicola*. (Photo Mervi Laaksonen/Metsähallitus)

Further information:

Mannerkoski, I., 2001. *Xyletinus tremulicola* Y. Kangas – haavansahajumi, Aspbarkgnagare – In: Ilmonen, J., Rytteri, T., & Alanen, A. Luontodirektiivin kasvit ja selkärangattomat eläimet. Suomen Natura 2000-ehdotuksen luonnontieteellinen arviointi. Suomen ympäristö 510, Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki, pp. 146–148.