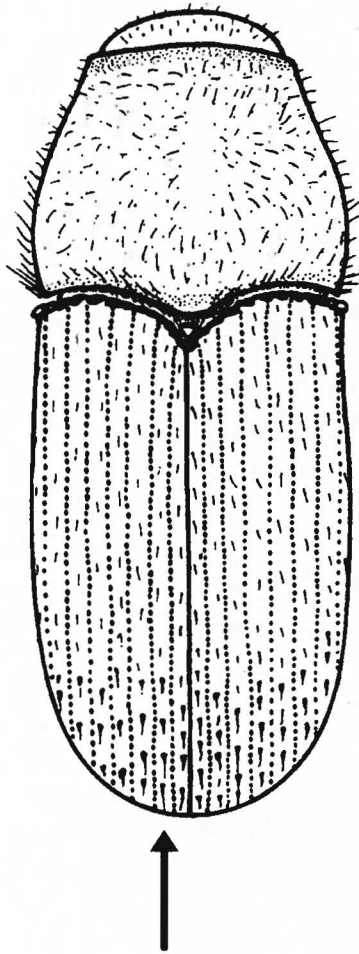


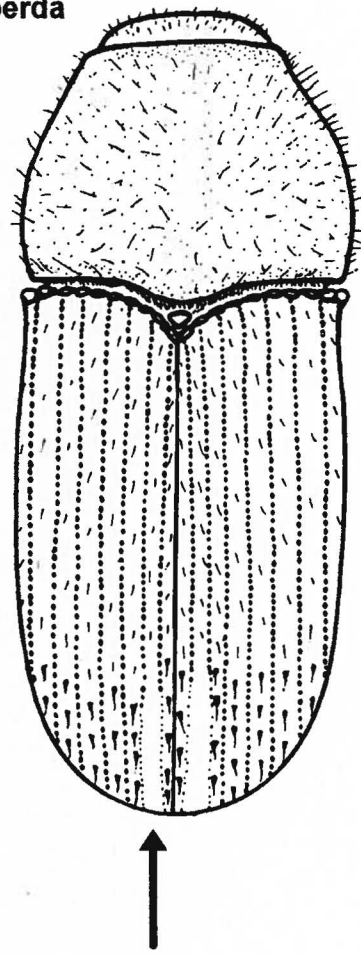
Distinguishing *Tomicus minor* from *T. piniperda*

Tomicus minor and *T. piniperda* can be separated taxonomically by examining the setae on the elytral declivity. The drawings below (Grune 1979) depict both species. In *T. minor*, the second row of setae to the right or left of the elytral suture is complete or almost complete. In most specimens of *T. piniperda*, there are no setae in this row. In 5 to 10 percent of females, however, this row has at least a few setae. For this reason, it is desirable to obtain as many specimens as possible from the same infested host.

T. minor



T. piniperda



The literature provides at least two other taxonomic characters for separating these species, but their reliability is doubtful. Firstly, the frons of *T. minor* is said to be “sparsely punctured”, whereas that of *T. piniperda* is “densely punctured” (Grune 1979). Secondly, the row indicated by the arrows above is said to be “slightly depressed” in *T. piniperda*, but not in *T. minor* (Pfeffer 1995).

Sources:

Grune, von Sabine. 1979. Brief illustrated key to European bark beetles. Verlag M. & H. Schaper, Hannover. 179 pp.

Pfeffer, A. 1995. Zentral- und westpalaarktische Borken- und Kernkafer (Coleoptera: Scolytidae, Platypodidae). Naturhistorisches Museum Basel. 310 pp.

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