

# Ips borealis thomasi

## Scientific Name

*Ips borealis thomasi* Hopping, 1965

## Synonyms

*Ips thomasi* Hopping, 1965

## Diagnostic notes

Species:

- Has four spines on the elytral declivity.
- Potentially sympatric with related species *I. tridens*, *I. pilifrons*, *I. perturbatus* and morphologically similar species *I. pini* (impunctate) by the uniseriately punctured discal interstriae.

Subspecies:

- Diagnosable by morphology of female head only.
- Female frons not, or very weakly protuberant, covered with sparse pubescence from epistoma to upper level of eyes; epistoma with transverse row of tubercles.
- Wood (1982) provides more detail on subspecies level diagnosis.

## Morphological Summary

### females

**Body.** (2.6-)3.2-3.6(-4.1) mm long, 2.6-2.7 times longer than wide; pronotum 1.0-1.1 times longer than wide.

**Head.** Epistomal margin with uniseriate row of tubercles with gap at midline. Frons outline convex in lateral view; vestiture fine (not hiding part of integument); surface sculpture near epistoma with isolated tubercles; central carina absent; central tubercle absent, without pair of circular tubercles on either side of midline; transverse carina absent; frons central fovea absent; circular tubercles above top of eyes absent. Vertex and pronotum without stridulatory apparatus (pars stridens). Antennal club sutures bisinuate.

**Prothorax.** Protibiae with three or four socketed teeth on apical half (does not include apical spine).

**Elytra.** Interstriae punctate (observed on interstriae 2 and 3 on middle third of elytral disc), punctures 0.3-0.5 times diameter of adjacent stria punctures (punctures and striae measured at steepest part of puncture wall), interstitial setae longer than width of scutellar shield, interstriae 2-3 times as wide as adjacent striae. Elytral declivity with four spines per side, spine 3 largest; spine 1 (largest on 2nd interstria) closer to suture than spine 2; spines 1 and 2 separated at base by distance greater than height of spine 1; spine 2 closer to spine 3 than spine 1; spine 3 tapered or straight sided with tapered apex, apex acute, with apical half symmetrical or asymmetrical in lateral view; spines 2 and 3 on shared tumescence, in line with spines 1 and 4 (posterodorsal view); declivital integument shiny.



*Ips borealis thomasi*, female frons



*Ips borealis thomasi*, male frons



*Ips borealis thomasi*, female declivity

## males

**Body.** (2.6-)3.2-3.6(-4.1) mm long, 2.6-2.7 times longer than wide; pronotum 1.0-1.1 times longer than wide.

**Head.** Epistomal margin with uniseriate row of tubercles uninterrupted medially or with gap at midline. **Frons** outline convex in lateral view; vestiture fine (not hiding part of integument); surface sculpture near epistoma with isolated tubercles; **central carina** absent; central tubercle absent, without pair of circular tubercles on either side of midline; **transverse carina** absent or present; **frons** central fovea absent; circular tubercles above top of eyes absent or present - up to one third of all tubercles. Vertex and pronotum without stridulatory apparatus (pars stridens). **Antennal club sutures** bisinuate.

**Prothorax.** Protibiae with three socketed teeth on apical half (does not include apical spine).

**Elytra.** **Interstriae punctate** (observed on interstriae 2 and 3 on middle third of elytral disc), punctures 0.3-0.5 times diameter of adjacent stria punctures (punctures and striae measured at steepest part of puncture wall), interstitial setae longer than width of scutellar shield, **interstriae** 2-3 times as wide as adjacent striae. Elytral declivity with four spines per side, spine 3 largest; spine 1 (largest on 2nd interstria) closer to suture than spine 2; spines 1 and 2 separated at base by distance greater than height of spine 1; spine 2 closer to spine 3 than spine 1; spine 3 tapered or straight sided with tapered apex, apex acute or right-angled, with apical half symmetrical or asymmetrical in lateral view; spines 2 and 3 on shared tumescence, in line with spines 1 and 4 (posterodorsal view); declival integument shiny.

## Geographic Distribution

Species: Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan); USA (Alaska, Colorado, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming).

Subspecies: Canada (Nova Scotia)

## Hosts

*Picea* spp.

## Notes

*I. borealis*, *I. pilifrons*, and *I. tridens* form clade (Cognato and Sun 2007).

## References

Cognato, A.I. 2015. Biology, systematics, and evolution of *Ips*. In *Bark beetles: biology and ecology of native and invasive species*. Edited by F.E. Vega and R.W. Hofstetter. Elsevier, San Diego, California. Pp. 351-370.

Cognato, A.I. and Sun, J.H. 2007. DNA based cladograms augment the discovery of a new *Ips* species from China (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae). *Cladistics*, 23: 539-551.

Wood, S.L. 1982. The bark and ambrosia beetles of North and Central America (Coleoptera: Scolytidae), a taxonomic monograph. *Great Basin Naturalist Memoirs*, 6: 1-1359.

## Internet resources



*Ips borealis thomasi*, male declivity



*Ips borealis thomasi*, male lateral habitus

[https://www.barkbeetles.info/regional\\_chklist\\_target\\_species.php?lookUp=1701](https://www.barkbeetles.info/regional_chklist_target_species.php?lookUp=1701)