



CAES

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ELM ZIGZIG SAWFLY (*Aproceros leucopoda*)



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The elm zigzag sawfly is native to eastern Asia and has recently been found in Connecticut. The larvae feed upon elm (*Ulmus* spp.) leaves, which creates a “zigzag” formation that gives them their names. Damage caused by the sawfly can vary from minor to significant defoliation. Mortality from defoliation has not been observed in the US, but death of individual branches may result. Feeding may also weaken and stress elm trees.

Elm zigzag sawfly larvae are pale green with T-shaped markings on their legs and a black stripe on their head. The zigzag pattern of their feeding is diagnostic but may not be observable in later feeding stages. Entire leaves may be consumed, leaving only the veins. Larvae pupate in a silken, net-like case. The adults are black with yellow legs. Only females have been found

in the US, and are able to reproduce parthenogenically, laying up to 60 eggs.

The introduction pathway is not yet known. It was first detected in Quebec in 2020 and was found in New York in 2022. Invasive insects can spread through the transport of infested plants. The adult sawfly is also capable of flying up to 56 miles a year.



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Tom Macy, Ohio DNR Division of Forestry, Bugwood.org

Sources:

<https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/elm-zigzag-sawfly>

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