



Elm casebearer

Coleophora ulmifoliella

Order Lepidoptera, Family Coleophoridae; casebearers
Native pest

Host plants: American, red, and slippery elm

Description: Adult female moths have gray markings on a buff background. They are 6 mm long and have a wing-span of 12 mm. Mature larvae are 13 mm long and are usually concealed in a brown, tubular case constructed from mined leaf remnants and lined with silk.

Life history: Adults appear in late July and lay eggs on leaves. Larvae feed at first within leaf mines but emerge later, construct cases, and move to twigs to overwinter. They continue feeding in their cases the following spring. There is one generation a year.

Overwintering: Larvae in cases attached to twigs.

Damage symptoms: Young larvae mining between leaf veins cause brown, oval patches on leaves. Complete browning and death of leaves can occur in heavy infestations.

Monitoring: Look for brown patches between leaf veins in August. Look in late summer for brown cases formed by larvae on undersides of leaves.

Chemical control: Pesticide application should only be necessary in the case of a severe infestation, in which most leaves contain more than a single larva.

Biological control: No reports of natural enemies

Plant mortality risk: Low

Biorational pesticides: *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, diflubenzuron, insecticidal soap, pyrethrins, spinosad, tenbufenozide

Conventional pesticides: acephate, bifenthrin, carbaryl, chlorpyrifos (nursery only), cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, fluvalinate, lambda-cyhalothrin, malathion, permethrin



Elm casebearer larva inside case feeding on elm leaf. Early instars feed first within leaf mines, but emerge from the leaf and construct cases. (90)
Photo: John Davidson