Goldspotted Oak Borer
(Agrilus aurogutattus)

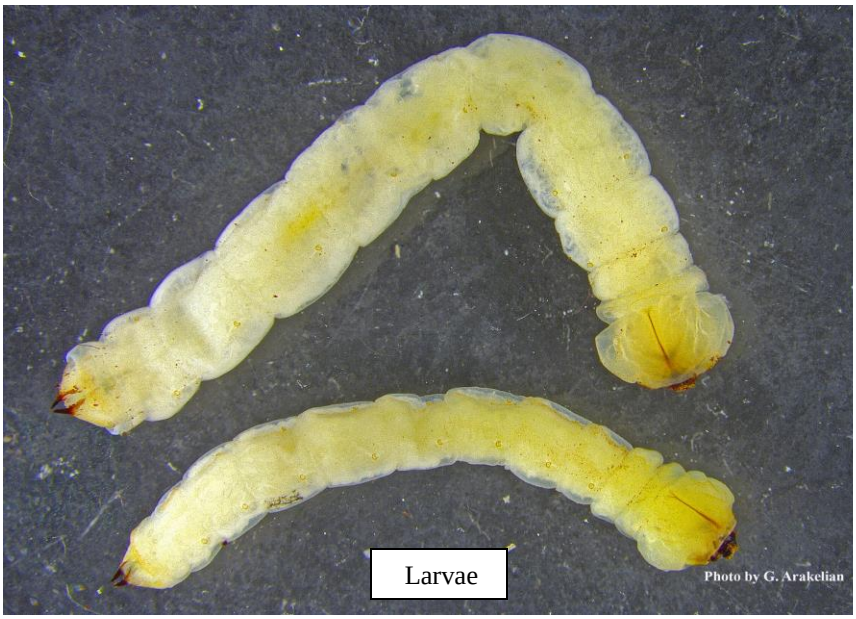
Adult (dorsal view)

Adult (lateral view)

Distribution: Goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) is native to southeastern Arizona and Mexico (Baja California). In recent years it was discovered in several counties of southern California. GSOB is close related to *A. coxalis* which is spread from central Mexico to Guatemala.

Field ID: Adult (about 10 mm) has dark metallic green body with six golden yellow spots on the elytra and two on thorax. Females are larger than males.

Larvae are yellowish-white, legless, and about 18 mm long when fully grown. First segment of thorax is conspicuously flattened and expanded. Tip of the abdomen with two pincher-like spines. Spiracles are crescent-shaped. Pupae resemble adults and are white, with soft bodies.



Larvae

D-shaped exit holes

Larval galleries

Oaks killed by GSOB

Hosts and damage:
Attacks various oaks and was recorded on coast live oak *(Quercus agrifolia)*, California black oak *(Q. kelloggii)*, canyon live oak *(Q. chrysolepis)*, Engelmann oak *(Q. engelmannii)*, silverleaf oak *(Q. hypoleucoides)*, and Emory oak *(Q. emoryi)*.

Larvae bore into main stems and some branches of host trees and injure the phloem and outer xylem. Mature larvae can often be located in the outer bark where they are bent in hairpin shape preparing for pupation.

Adults emerge by chewing D-shaped exit holes in the bark. They feed on oak leaves, but cause just a minor, insignificant damage. GSOB typically completes one generation in a year.

Heavily infested trees display crown thinning and gradually die over several years under continuous attacks by numerous GSOB generations.