The occurrence of *Synanthedon pictipes* (Grote & Robinson) in Louisiana

by

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**Abstract.** Multiyear dates of capture of *Synanthedon pictipes* (G.& R.) an extremely common pest of trees of stone fruits (almond, cherry, peach and plum) are illustrated along with a brief review of some recent literature records. This species, commonly known as the “lesser peach tree borer” occurs throughout most of eastern North America according to a plethora of agricultural literature.

Prior mention of *Synanthedon pictipes* (G.& R.) (Fig. 1) specifically occurring in Louisiana seems to be absent among the more easily accessible literature, but surely the species has to have been noted by workers in areas of peach agriculture in the state.

According to Eichlin and Duckworth (1988), *pictipes* has two annual generations throughout most of its range. Taft, Smitley, and Snow (1991) states *pictipes* has one annual generation in the north central United States. Brown and Mizell (1993) states *pictipes* has at least two generations in Florida, adults occurring year-round, and report Amelanchier species, apple, and pear as host plants. None of these authors offer any proof of these supposed one or two per year annual broods. In Louisiana, I have taken adult *pictipes* with regularity February through November for the past 30 years using fermenting fruit bait traps, ultraviolet light traps, and pheromone traps. Based on the dates shown here, there appear to be at least five peak flights in Louisiana (Fig. 2), though it occurs on the wing for nine months. A more detailed study is needed to ascertain the true number of annual broods. I have taken this species in East Baton Rouge, Natchitoches, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany parishes, but surely it should be found in abundance just about anywhere wild cherry (Prunus serotina) occurs. Wild cherry trees in St. Tammany parish are always severely infested with this pest.

**Fig. 1** Adult *Synanthedon pictipes*

**Fig. 2** *Synanthedon pictipes* taken at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 881.

**Literature cited**