



Red Headed Pine Sawfly

Neodiprion lecontei



Appearance

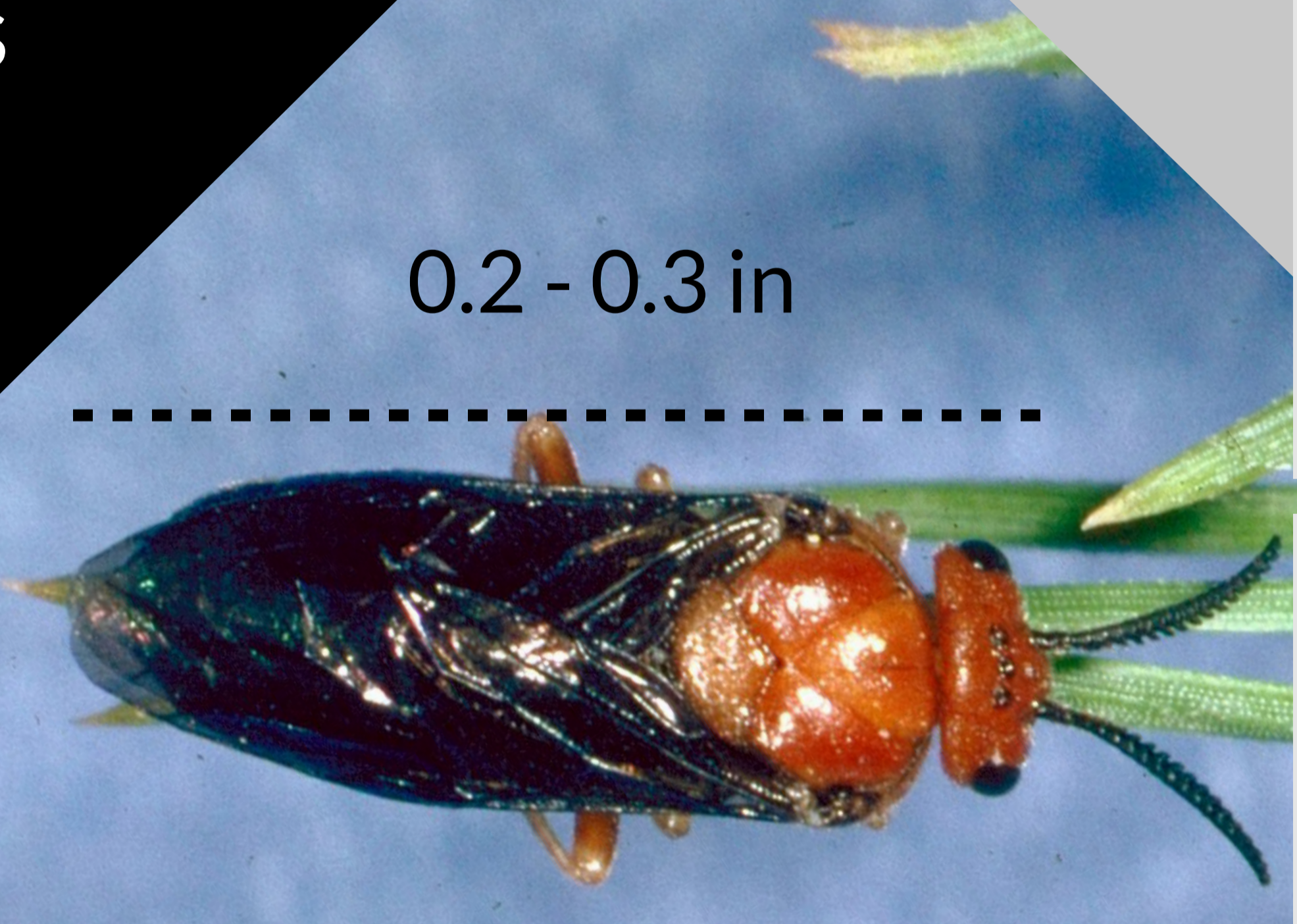
Adult

Females have brownish-red head and body
Males are mostly black with feathery antennae
Two pairs of dark membranous wings and a broad waist

Larval

A brown to red 'helmet head'
Yellow to greenish body with black spots going lengthways down the body
Fully grown larvae can be 1 inch long

Female sawflies are more brightly colored and 75% larger than males



Life Cycle

Adult

Female deposits single eggs in slits cut directly into pine needles

Egg

Small shiny and translucent can be identified by 'striped' yellow pine needles

Sawflies can complete this cycle 2-3 times per year

Pupa grow in small (0.5 in) cocoons in soil below pine trees
Can overwinter in cocoons

Emerge after 2 weeks

Can completely defoliate small pines

Pupa

Larval

Photo Credit: Lacy L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org

Fun Facts!

Even though they are named sawflies, they are actually a type of wasp in the order Hymenoptera, which makes them more closely related to bees and ants

When threatened larvae will vomit their stomach contents to help deter potential predators

Sawflies are considered a 'stingless wasp'. Even though the female's **ovipositor** does resemble a stinger, unlike many other wasps, it poses no physical harm to people

Female sawflies have a saw-like ovipositor to help them deposit their eggs, which is likely where their common name came from

Ovipositors are tube-like organs located opposite the head, in the rear, that female insects use to deposit eggs!