FOLIAR DAMAGE OF SAND PINE BY *Systena marginalis*, A CYPRESS LEAF BEETLE—On 16 July 1981, sand pine, *Pinus clausa* (Chapm.) Vasey, with partial to entire crowns of reddened foliage were observed in sand pine plantations (10-15 yrs old) located near Tennille, FL. During a field inspection 28 July 1981, we observed adult *Systena marginalis* (Ill.) feeding and mating on sand pine needles (Fig. 1). Commonly known as the cypress leaf beetle, *S. marginalis* is usually associated with baldcypress, *Taxodium distichum* (L.) Richard, or pondcypress, *Taxodium distichum* var. *mutans* (Ait.) Sweet (Chellman, C. W. 1975. Florida Dept. Agric. Bull. No. 196).

A map, constructed from aerial surveys, shows that all affected sand pine bordered cypress ponds within the sand pine plantations (Fig. 2). Within

![Fig. 1](image1.jpg) 1) Adult *Systena marginalis*, ca. 5 mm in length. Photo credit: J. Windsor (DPI Photo No. 702284-16). 2) Distribution of sand pine damaged by *Systena marginalis*. Blank areas either planted sand pine or open land.

the ponds, most baldcypress and pondcypress trees exhibited severe foliar damage by *S. marginalis*. Feeding scars of *S. marginalis* were similar in appearance (3.2 mm long x 0.3 mm wide) for all 3 tree species (Fig. 3). Generally, the feeding pattern was from crown tops to the bottoms on ob-
Fig. 3. Feeding damage of *Systena marginalis* on host trees. Foliage and damage to scale, ca. ½ natural size.

served sand pines; however, not all trees experienced complete crown loss. Upon reinspection of damaged sand pines on 8 October 1981, we found most trees refoliated and not readily discernible as having been damaged by *S. marginalis*.

Also, we observed nymphs of an assassin bug, *Psellips cinctus* (F.), preying on *S. marginalis* on sand pine foliage; 2 instances of impaled *S. marginalis* were seen on one tree (*S. marginalis* and *P. cinctus* determined by R. E. Woodruff and F. W. Mead, respectively, Bureau of Entomology, Division of Plant Industry, Gainesville, FL).—W. N. DIXON, Forest Entomologist, Div. of Forestry, Gainesville, FL 32602 and D. I. ENSMINGER, Research Forester, Buckeye Cellulose Corp., Perry, FL 32347 USA. Contribution No. 536, Bureau of Entomology, P.O. Box 1969, Gainesville, FL 32602.