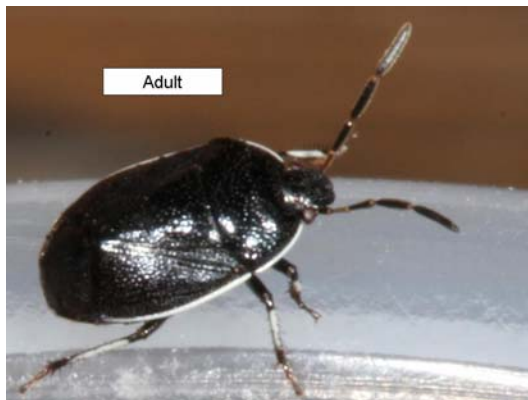


Burrowing bugs, *Sehirus cinctus*

Burrowing bugs are small, (1/4 inch long) shiny, black, stinkbug-shaped insects with a white border around the thorax and abdomen. Unlike true stinkbugs, however, their tibiae (lower legs) are covered with easily seen spines.



Biology

Very little is known relative to the biology of this insect in Kansas. They overwinter as adults, mate in the spring, lay eggs, which usually hatch in mid-May. These bugs are very secretive but live and feed primarily above ground. They are especially abundant on henbit and other mints and nettles in late spring, but adults can be found throughout the summer on these plants.

Damage

These bugs can often be found in huge numbers after herbicide treatment kills their natural host, most commonly henbit. This is usually about the same time as the burrowing bug populations peak and is composed of mostly nymphs with a few adults. These large numbers are often a cause of concern but have not resulted in crop injury.

Management

No management recommendations have been justified.

Jeff Whitworth

Holly Davis

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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