Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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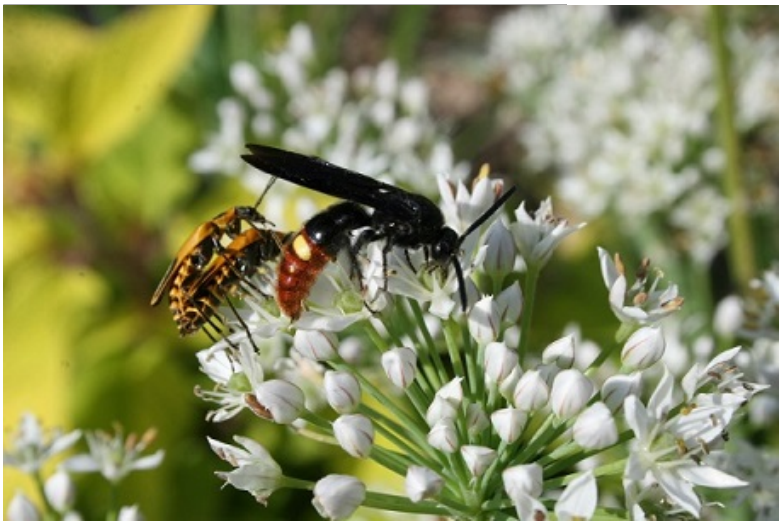
Scolia dubia: Parasitoid of the Green June Beetle

We continue to see large "wasps" (not cicada killer wasps) feeding on flowering plants such as goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) and wild onion (*Allium* spp.). This is *Scolia dubia*, which is a parasitoid of green June beetle (*Cotinis nitida*) larvae or grubs located in the soil. Since there were so many green June beetle adults flying around this year, there is likely to be high populations of grubs/larvae for the parasitoids to attack.



The parasitoids are approximately 3/4-inches long with purple to black wings. The abdomen has red-brown markings with two conspicuous yellow spots on both sides of the third abdominal segment (Figure 1). The parasitoids can be observed flying in a figure-eight pattern several inches above turfgrass infested with green June beetle larvae. A female enters the burrow of a green June beetle larva, uses her ovipositor (egg-laying device) to paralyze the larva, and then she attaches an egg to the underside of the larva. The larva hatches from an egg and consumes the paralyzed green June beetle larva. The larva overwinters in a cocoon at the bottom of the burrow and then pupates in the spring. Adult parasitoids typically emerge from August

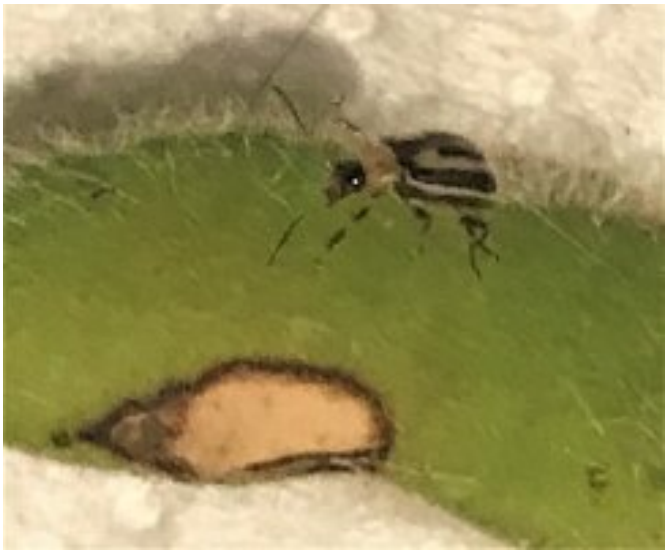
through September, and feed on flower nectar. They are likely emerging and present later than usual due to the weather conditions we have experienced this year (lots of rain and cool temperatures). *Scolia dubia* adults, unlike cicada killer males, are not aggressive and females will only sting when handled.

Raymond Cloyd

HOME

Soybeans

Most soybeans in north central Kansas, even double cropped fields, are getting to the stage where the pods are hardened enough to protect the beans inside (see picture of pod feeding scar by bean leaf beetles and an adult bean leaf beetle (pic1). Woollybear caterpillars (pic 2) are becoming more noticeable as the soybean leaves start to senesce, the caterpillars are getting larger and thus more visible, and as they move to the ground, looking for overwintering sites.



(Pic 1) Bean leaf Beetle Feeding

(Pic 2) Woollybear Caterpillars

Jeff Whitworth

HOME

Sorghum

Most sorghum throughout north central Kansas is past the soft dough stage, thus not susceptible to "headworms." However, a few late-planted fields, just coming into the "boot" stage, have sporadic small colonies of sugarcane aphids (SCA) (see pic of SCA's from Saline and Dickenson counties (pic3)). However, there seems to be significant numbers of beneficials, but these late developing fields should still be monitored as these populations can "explode" quite quickly.

(Pic 3) SCA Colony

Jeff Whitworth

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Wheat

Some reports are being received mainly from south eastern/south central Kansas relative to "worms" feeding on early-planted wheat. First, it is usually better to plant wheat as late as possible to help avoid all wheat pests, whether pathogens or insects. The "worms" reported so far, have been either armyworms or fall armyworms, both of which will do about the same type of damage. They feed on leaf tissue and consume more, as they get larger, thus it is best to monitor wheat fields early to detect any larvae while they

are still small. They usually do not reduce wheat stands, just remove the leaf tissue, but under stressful growing conditions plant stands may be impacted. Under good growing conditions, plants should be only temporarily affected. However, if there are 8-10 worms per sq. ft. and the worms are small, i.e., less than ½", treatment may be justified. Remember also, if the leaf feeding continues into the winter it might be caused by army cutworms, which will feed all winter anytime temperatures are over 45 F, and into the spring. However, armyworms and fall armyworms will only feed until the 1st hard freeze, but not through the winter.

Jeff Whitworth

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Bug Jokes of the Week

Q: What do bees brush their hair with?

A: A honey comb

Q: How does a young bee (larva) get to school?

A: On a school BUZZ

Raymond Cloyd

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Sincerely,

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