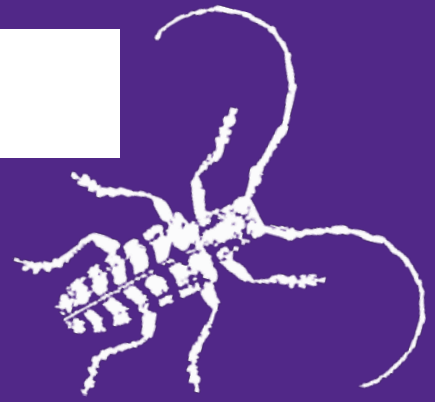


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News Corner

- Red-Shouldered Bug

NEWS CORNER

Red-Shouldered Bug

Red-shouldered bug, *Jadera haematoloma* (Herrich-Schaeffer) (Hemiptera: Rhopalidae), nymphs and adults can be seen congregating on the south and west sides of golden-rain trees, homes, and other buildings, sometimes in extensive numbers. These insects are similar in appearance to the boxelder bug, *Leptocoris trivittatus* (Figure 1), however, adults do not have the central red stripe on the pronotum of the thorax (middle region of the body), and red markings on the wings. Instead, red-shouldered bugs have a distinctive red line on both sides of the thorax or 'shoulder.' Red-shouldered bug adults are 3/8 to 5/8 of an inch (9.5 to 15.8 millimeters) long, black, with red eyes (Figure 2). Nymphs are red, oval shaped, and resemble adults



Figure 1. Adult boxelder bug (Raymond Cloyd).

but do not have wings. Instead, nymphs have wing pads that appear on both sides of the abdomen (hindmost region of the body) just below the thorax. Adults overwinter in a protected location, such as, homes or other buildings. They will also overwinter in the soil or leaf litter near building foundations. Red-shouldered bugs feed primarily on the seeds of the golden-rain tree, *Koelreuteria paniculata*. Nymphs and



Figure 2. Adult red-shouldered bug (Raymond Cloyd).

adults congregate on the trunk of trees (Figure 3). Red-shouldered bugs can become a nuisance later in the season when they enter homes and other buildings to overwinter.

The primary method to prevent red-shouldered bugs from entering homes and other buildings is by sealing or caulking cracks and crevices. An insecticide can be applied to the outside of a home or other building. Pyrethroid based insecticides, such as, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, or permethrin may reduce the number of adults that enter homes or other buildings. However, once red-shouldered bugs enter homes or other buildings then the only effective management option will be vacuuming up the nymphs and adults and killing them by placing into a bucket of soapy water.



Figure 3. Red-shouldered bugs aggregating on the bark of golden-rain tree (Raymond Cloyd).

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Sincerely,

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