

# Field Guide to **Stink Bugs**

of **Agricultural Importance** in  
the **Upper Southern Region**  
and **Mid-Atlantic States**



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# Field Guide to Stink Bugs of Agricultural Importance in the Upper Southern Region and Mid-Atlantic States

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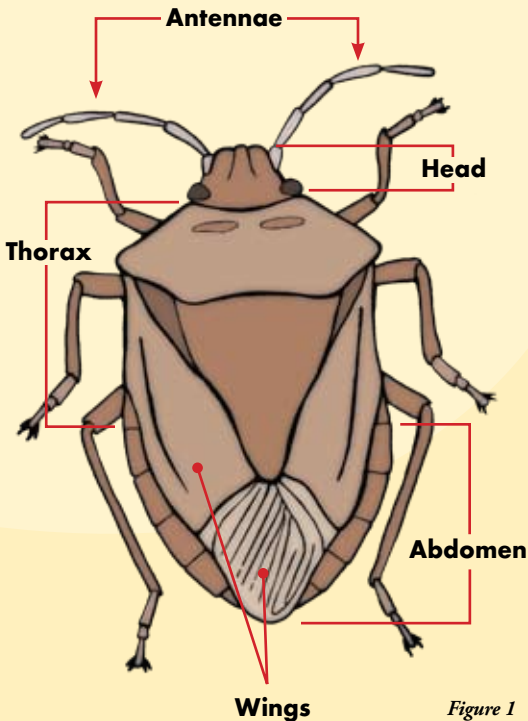


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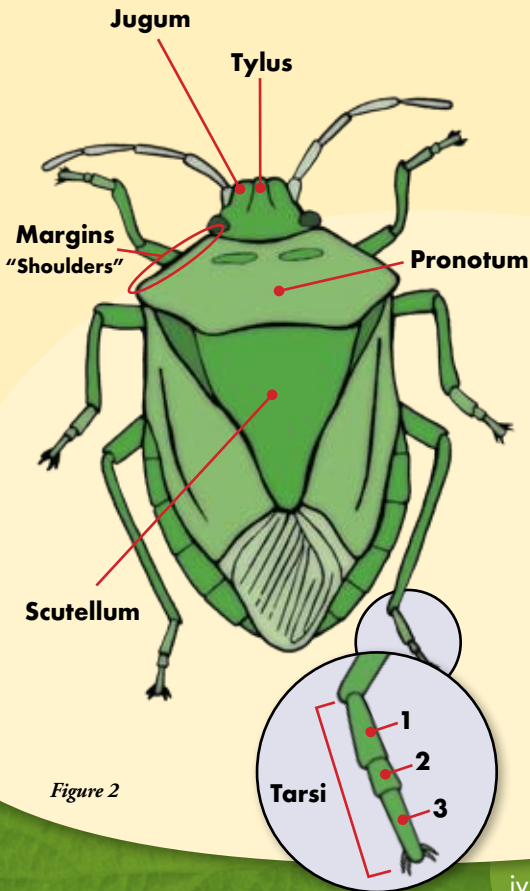
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# Stink Bug Diagram



*Figure 1*



*Figure 2*

# 1 Economically Important Species

## Green stink bug, *Acrosternum hilare* (Say)

ADULT SIZE

Unhatched



1

Hatched



2

**Eggs:** One of the largest stink bug eggs and deposited in clusters of approximately 20-50. Micropylar processes (little nubs at the crown of the egg) are numerous and bend distinctly at the end; distinctively pure white until ready to hatch; egg shell is smooth.

**Nymphs:** Early instars are mostly black with orange markings. Later instars with a mostly black or green head and thorax; abdomen mostly green with dark spots down the center. Darker color forms are common.

**Adults:** Green with black bands on antennae; pointed spine on the underside of the abdomen between where the hind legs attach to the body.



3



4



5

## Southern green stink bug, *Nezara viridula* (L.)



6



7



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9



10

**Eggs:** White changing to pink as they mature; deposited in hexagon-shaped clusters of rows with approximately 150 eggs per cluster.

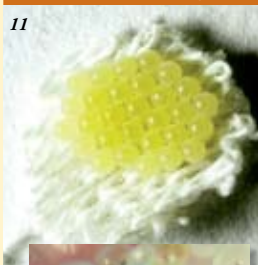
**Nymphs:** Early instars are dark brown. Later instars are green with white spots on the abdomen with pink-red markings around the outer edge.

**Adults:** Green with red bands on antennae; rounded spine on the underside of the abdomen between where the hind legs attach to the body.

## Brown stink bug, *Euschistus servus* (Say)

ADULT SIZE

11



**Eggs:** Manila-colored (less white than green stink bug eggs) and deposited in loosely-bound clusters; rough-looking egg shell.

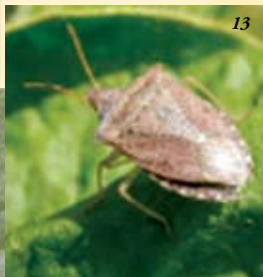
**Nymphs:** Head and pronotum of early instars are dark brown; abdomen is light brown with slightly darker spots. Later instars are green-brown to yellow-brown with light brown spots down the middle of the abdomen.

**Adults:** Solid mottled brown with rounded shoulders.

12



13



14





## Dusky stink bug, *Euschistus tristigmus* (Say)

ADULT SIZE



**Eggs and nymphs:** Similar to the brown stink bug.

**Adults:** Similar to the brown stink bug except with pointed shoulders; underside of the abdomen is light-colored with single or multiple dark spots in the center towards the rear.



*Euschistus quadrator* (Rolston)

ADULT SIZE



**Eggs and nymphs:** Similar to the brown stink bug.

**Adults:** Similar to the dusky stink bug, but has a convex pronotum (not apparent in image) and lacks abdominal spots.



## Brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys* (Stål)



23

**Eggs:** White to pale green and deposited in clusters of approximately 25; appear somewhat shiny.



24

**Nymphs:** Early instars have a dark head and pronotum; abdomen is orange and red with black stripes on the outer edges and down the center. Later instars have a mostly black head and pronotum; abdomen is rust-colored with black spots on the outer edges and down the center; antennae and legs have white bands.



25

**Adults:** Speckled brown-gray; white band on the next to last antennal segment; dark and white bands around the outer edges of the abdomen; small round coppery patches on or near the head.



26

# 7 Economically Important Species

## Rice stink bug, *Oebalus pugnax* (F.)

ADULT SIZE



**Eggs:** Deposited in two rows of up to 45 eggs that change from green to red as they mature.

**Nymphs:** White to brown head and thorax; light-colored abdomen with red speckles and dark spots in the center.

**Adults:** Tan, narrow body with forward-pointing spines on the shoulders; scutellum is yellow.



## Redshouldered stink bug, *Thyanta accerra* McAtee

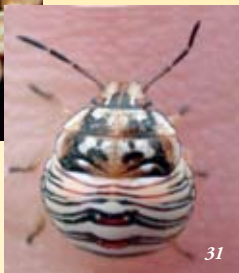
ADULT SIZE



**Eggs:** Loosely aligned in large clusters that change from white to green as they mature.

**Nymphs:** Mostly white with dark red to black spots on the thorax and black and red-orange stripes on the abdomen.

**Adults:** Green, often with a red-pink stripe across the pronotum; scutellum with a red-pink tip; no spine on the underside of the abdomen between where the hind legs attach to the body.



*Thyanta custator custator* (F.)

ADULT SIZE



33

**Nymphs:** Dark red to black thorax with an outer white margin; abdomen is white with black stripes.

**Adults:** Green, often with a broad single red-pink stripe across the pronotum; black markings along the outer edge of the pronotum.



34



35

## Redbanded stink bug, *Piezodorus guildinii* (Westwood)

ADULT SIZE



36

**Eggs:** Usually dark red to brown with a white band around the outer edge and deposited in two rows with approximately 30 eggs.

**Nymphs:** Later instars are mostly green and have brown to red stripes on the sides and top of the abdomen.



37

**Adults:** Shiny green to yellow-green with two stripes across the pronotum (the front is yellow and the back is dark red); long spine on the underside of the abdomen between where the hind legs attach to the body.



38



39

**Harlequin bug,**  
*Murgantia histrionica* (Hahn)

ADULT SIZE



40

**Eggs:** White with a small black stripe at the base, a larger black stripe near the top, and a black crescent on the top. Deposited in small clusters of two rows.



41

**Nymphs:** Shiny, mostly black with orange-red markings on the pronotum and outlining the middle of the abdomen; abdomen also with white stripes.

**Adults:** Black with distinct orange or red markings; head slopes downward.



42



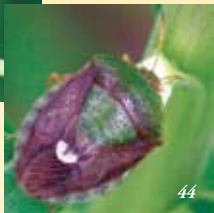
ADULT SIZE

## *Edessa bifida* (Say)

43



**Adults:** Large, oval, green-brown with a broad convex pronotum; scutellum with a white tip.



44

## Twice-stabbed stink bug, *Cosmopepla lintneriana* Kirkaldy

ADULT SIZE

**Adults:** Small and black with a red stripe across the pronotum and along the outer edge of the pronotum and abdomen; scutellum with two red spots at the tip.



45



46

***Meneclis insertus*** (Say)

**Adults:** Large, oval, brown and appears flattened; pronotum is broad and protrudes forward almost level with the eyes; a thin white stripe cuts the pronotum lengthwise.

47

ADULT SIZE

***Proxys punctulatus*** (Palisot de Beauvois)

**Adults:** Black with sharp shoulders; scutellum with a white spot at the tip; legs are ivory colored near the body, changing to black.



48

ADULT SIZE

## Jade stink bug, *Banasa euchlora* (Say)



**Adults:** Small and green with white to yellow markings at the three corners of the scutellum.

49

ADULT SIZE

## *Banasa dimidiata* (Say)

**Adults:** Small, green-brown; front portion of the pronotum is green and back portion is red-brown; scutellum may be either green-brown or red-brown.



50

ADULT SIZE

**Say stink bug, *Chlorochroa sayi* (Stål)**

**Adults:** Mostly green with an orange stripe around the outer edge of the body; scutellum with four yellow spots.

ADULT SIZE

**Conchuela, *Chlorochroa ligata* (Say)**

**Adults:** Mostly black with an orange stripe around the outer edge of body; scutellum with one orange spot at the tip.

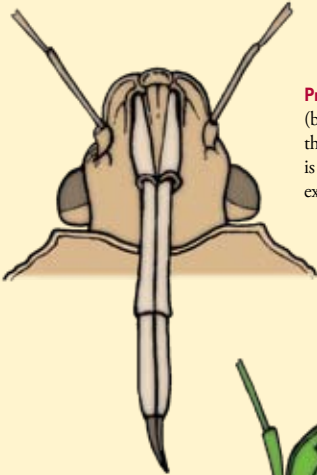


ADULT SIZE

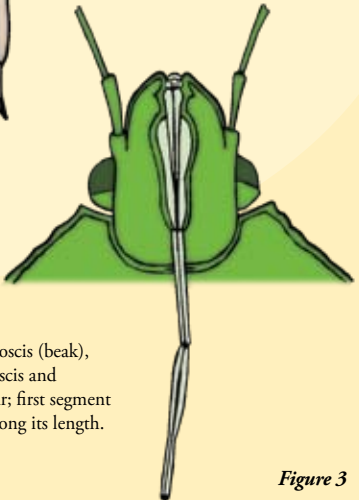
## *Mormidea lugens* (F.)



**Adults:** Small and black-brown; scutellum and pronotum with white to yellow outer edges. Antennae are black with white bands.



**Predator:** Broad proboscis (beak), twice the width of the antennae; first segment is not attached to head except at base.



**Pest:** Narrow proboscis (beak), width of the proboscis and antennae are similar; first segment attached to head along its length.

*Figure 3*

## Florida predatory stink bug, *Euthyrhynchus floridanus* (L.)

54



**Adults:** Mostly black with red, yellow, to orange spots at each corner of the scutellum; however, spots can merge; shoulders pointed.

## *Perillus strigipes* (Herrich-Schäffer)

**Adults:** Black with an orange-red shaped V-pattern and rounded shoulders.

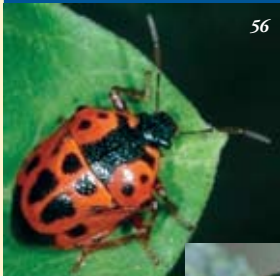


55

## Anchor stink bug, *Stiretrus anchorago* (F.)

ADULT SIZE

56



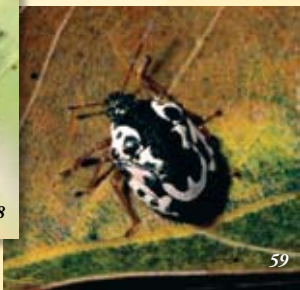
**Adults:** Unusual in that they can be all black, black and orange, or black and white with different color patterns. Body is convex with a large scutellum.



57



58



59



## Twospotted stink bug, *Perillus bioculatus* (F.)

ADULT SIZE



**Adults:** Mostly black; pronotum red or ivory colored with two black spots; red or ivory colored triangle on the scutellum.



## Rough stink bug, *Brochymena quadripustulata* (F.)

ADULT SIZE

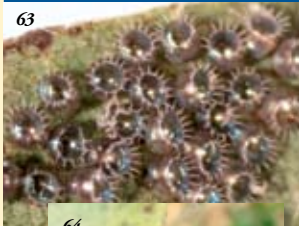
**Adults:** Large and brown with small orange spots; pronotum toothed on the outer edge; legs have white bands.



## Spined soldier bug, *Podisus maculiventris* (Say)

ADULT SIZE

63



**Eggs:** Silvery to metallic-looking with spiny nubs and deposited in loose clusters.

**Nymphs:** Early instars are dark red with black heads and black spots on the top side of the abdomen. Later instars are tan to orange with red and white stripes on the abdomen.

**Adults:** Brown with pointed shoulders; underside of the abdomen is light with a single black spot in the center towards the rear and a long pointed abdominal spine.

64



65



66



## Injury to cotton



External boll injury is characterized by small round shallow purple-black depressions, usually 1/32 to 1/16-inch in diameter. These spots tend to be larger than the tiny spots usually seen on maturing bolls.



Injured bolls will often have yellow, tan, or brown stained lint in the seed areas, often, but not always, under the external feeding spots. Other injury symptoms include small wart-like growths and/or dark “pin prick” spots on the inside of the boll wall. Internal boll injury may be present without obvious external evidence.

## Injury to cabbage



The harlequin bug sucks sap from the cabbage plant, causing yellow or white blotches to appear on leaves. This feeding can cause plants to wilt, turn brown, or die, and affects commercial value.

## Injury to corn



Stink bug feeding on ears results in loss of kernels and cob deformation.



Feeding on stalks appears as brown spots and may include a white stylet sheath in the center of the feeding spot.



## Injury to peaches

75



The most common form of injury is the characteristic “catfacing.” The fruit growth stage determines the severity of the damage.



76



77

## Injury to apples



Early-season feeding results in dimples or depressed areas.



Internal injury appears as white, pithy areas that turn brown.

## Injury to tomatoes



Feeding on tomatoes results in minute puncture marks on the fruit surrounded by a yellow halo.



Injury to ripe tomatoes appears as a pithy or white to yellow corky area.



## Injury to soybean



Feeding punctures appear as small brown or black spots on seed and result in deformed, undersized, discolored or shriveled seeds.



Feeding can result in flattened pods.

## Key to green-colored stink bugs



84

Southern green stink bug, *Nezara viridula*, has a rounded spine (called the abdominal spine) on the underside of the abdomen between where the legs attach to the body and antennae have red bands.

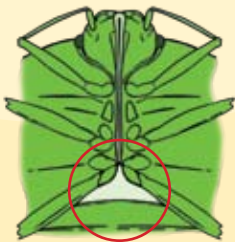
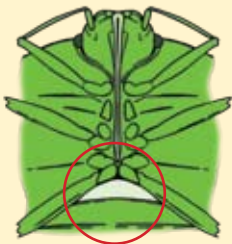


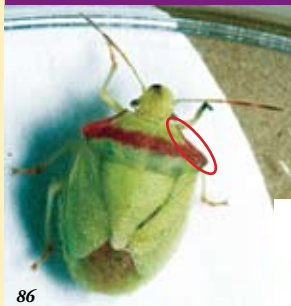
Figure 4

Green stink bug, *Acrosternum hilare*, has a pointed abdominal spine and antennae have black bands.



85

## Key to small green-colored stink bugs



Redshouldered stink bug, *Thyanta accerra*, lacks the black markings on the outer edge of the pronotum.

*Thyanta custator custator* occurs only in the coastal plain of the U.S. and has narrow black markings along the outer edge of the pronotum.



Redbanded stink bug, *Piezodorus guildinii*, has a long abdominal spine.



## Key to brown-colored stink bugs

90



Brown stink bug, *Euschistus servus*, has rounded shoulders and lacks an abdominal spine.

Dusky stink bug, *Euschistus tristigma*, has pointed shoulders, lacks an abdominal spine, and has one or more black spots on the underside of the abdomen.



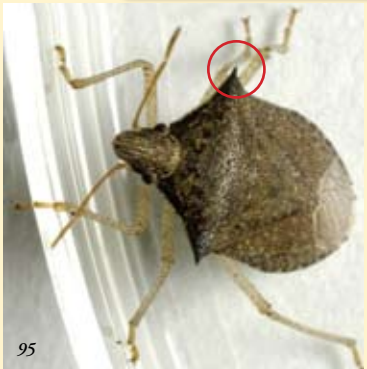
91



92



Spined soldier bug, *Podisus maculiventris*, has pointed shoulders, a long abdominal spine, and a black spot on the underside of the abdomen. Differs from other brown species by having predaceous mouth-parts (see Fig. 3, pg. 17).



*Euschistus quadrator* has pointed shoulders, lacks an abdominal spine, and lacks abdominal spots.

**Key to brown-colored stink bugs** cont.

96

Rough stink bug, *Brochymena quadripustulata*, has a pronotum that is toothed on the outer edge.



97

Brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys*, has a pronotum that is smooth on the outer edge; antennae have white bands on the last two segments.

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