**Stink Bugs of Oregon**

A guide to members of the insect family Pentatomidae and their relatives commonly found in Oregon

**INTRODUCTION**

Stink bugs are insects in the order Hemiptera, known to entomologists as the "true bugs." True bugs are characterized by having sucking mouthparts that they use to suck juices from plants or prey. More specifically, stink bugs are in the family Pentatomidae, and are distinguished from other hemipterans by having five antennal segments (four + front, rear + one), other hemipterans have four or less. When disturbed, stink bugs emit defensive liquids from their anal glands that can have a strong odor and a bad taste to discourage predators. Although most are herbivorous on a wide variety of plants, a few are predators on other insects. Over 500 known stink bug species have been found in Oregon. This guide features some of the common species, and some close relatives, that growers and others might find on their farms, in their gardens, or in their homes. For species with common names, they are provided under the scientific name, but not all species possess a common name. In Oregon, many of the stink bug species of the United States can be nuisance or agricultural pests, but most are not considered pests and are thus not dangerous to people. This guide is intended to aid you in identifying stink bugs that you find around the state to help with pest management decisions or to satisfy your curiosity.

**ATTRACTIVE PLANTS**

These plants are attractive to many species of stink bugs throughout the spring and summer:

- Antelope bitterbush (Purshia tridentata)
- English holly (Ilex aquifolium)
- Hawthorn (Crataegus spp.)
- Himalayan blackberry (Rubus armeniacus)
- Oregon grape (Mahonia aquifolium)
- Red alder (Alnus rubra)
- Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima)
- Wild carrot (Daucus carota)
- Wild and weedy grasses

**LIFE CYCLE**

When the weather warms in the spring and the days get longer, adult stink bugs come out of hibernation to feed, mate, and lay eggs. These adults will die a few weeks later, but their offspring will hatch and develop through the summer. Stink bug egg clusters can have seven to many as fifty eggs, varying by species. After hatching, the young, called nymphs, go through five distinct growth stages, or instar, before molting into a winged adult. The first instars generally remain on the egg cluster but later instars can disperse. The different stages can be distinguished by their relative size to one another and the development of the wing pads on the later instars. Nymphs are in variation among species and some stages can be difficult to discern. Stink bug nymphs will always complete five instars before molting into adults.

**STINK BUGS**

Oregon Department of Agriculture Insect Pest Prevention & Management Program
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 986-4621

Photos and Illustrations by Chris Hedstrom, unless otherwise noted.

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**Psyllids**

- **Aphelocephala brentwoodiae**
  - Size: 7 – 10 mm
  - Description: Black with red eyes. Adults have red antennae.
  - Range: Oregon: Common on coniferous species, especially on the coast.

**Stink Bugs**

- **Cherinus hilaris**
  - Size: 7 – 10 mm
  - Description: Distinctive bi-colored leaf and red coloration to the abdomen. Body usually glossy with small dark punctures. Color of this species is highly variable. Often referred to as B. diminutus in literature. Nymphs have a dark thorax with a tan abdomen and are often more coarsely made than when compared to other stink bug nymphs. B. diminutus is also a common species that are also reported from Oregon. These differences in size, rust color, and the coloration of the punctures in the later instars.
  - Range: Common in the Willamette Valley, but not known to be found in southern California, New England, and across the U.S.

- **Chlorochroa ligata**
  - Size: 13 – 20 mm
  - Description: Orange from bright to dark green, depending on the light. Nymphs have a dark orange pronotum and abdomen. Nymphs are dark brown in color but at the terminal instar they fade to yellow. Antennae are solid black. Many have a lighter colored spot at the tip of the pronotum, which nymphs of other species in Oregon do not have. Often referred to as Arocentron bicarinatum in literature.
  - Note: Wide range of hosts including English holly, Hawthorne, red alder, and Potentilla viscosa. Orange and red flowers, andred especially with the same coloration in the orange and red flowers, andred especially with the same coloration in the orange and red flowers.
  - Range: Common in the Willamette Valley and coastal Oregon, but not known to be found in southern California, New England, and across the U.S.

- **Chlorochroa rosaeana**
  - Size: 10 – 15 mm
  - Description: Bright green oval shape with yellow edges along the abdomen. Small reddish brown general area of the head, neck, and abdomen. The later instars are gold, the first instars are yellow. Antennae are solid black. Many have a lighter colored spot at the tip of the pronotum, which nymphs of other species in Oregon do not have. Often referred to as Arocentron bicarinatum in literature.
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- **Chlorochroa uhleri**
  - Size: 12 – 16 mm
  - Description: Dark green coloration to the head and red coloration to the abdomen. Body usually glossy with small dark punctures. Color of this species is highly variable. Often referred to as B. diminutus in literature. Nymphs have a dark thorax with a tan abdomen and are often more coarsely made than when compared to other stink bug nymphs. B. diminutus is also a common species that are also reported from Oregon. These differences in size, rust color, and the coloration of the punctures in the later instars.
  - Range: Common in the Willamette Valley, but not known to be found in southern California, New England, and across the U.S.

- **Psyllids**
  - **Aphelocephala brentwoodiae**
    - Size: 7 – 10 mm
    - Description: Pale green body with dark spots and black antennae. Most adults in Oregon spend the winter in leaf litter or under turf, but some, like the brown mammoth stink bug, will gather in structures. Some stink bug species are univoltine, or have a single generation per year, but others are multivoltine, completing two or three depending on summer conditions. (Image adapted from illustrations in The Developmental Stages of Some Species of Japanese Pentatomidae (Hemiptera; Kobayashi 1967).
  - Range: Oregon: Common on coniferous species, especially on the coast.

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**Cosmopepla conspicillata**

**Hobble-net stick bug**

**Identification:**
- Adult: Black, with a distinctive, irregular orange (or reddish) band across the pronotum. Prionotum with yellowish-orange and black areas, and have light bands or stripes on opposite sides of their abdomen. Antennae are dark brown. Legs are yellowish-brown, with contrasting orange bands.
- 3rd instar: Black, with distinctive orange bands on the sides of the pronotum.

**Range:**
- Found throughout Oregon, commonly in the Willamette Valley. Identified from specimens in Baker, Douglas, Jackson, and Lake counties.

**Hosts:**
- Common on thimbleberry, raspberry, and other Rubus spp.
- Also found on antelope bitterbrush in central Oregon.

**Description:**
- Small black bug with a distinctive orange band across the pronotum. Prionotum with yellowish-orange and black areas, and have light bands or stripes on opposite sides of their abdomen. Antennae are dark brown. Legs are yellowish-brown, with contrasting orange bands.
- Adults are common in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

**Eggs**
- Found on ponderosa pine, commonly in the middle of the pronotum.
- 3rd instar: Black, with distinctive orange bands on the sides of the pronotum.

**Notes:**
- Despite their common name, they are not considered pests in Oregon. Although they are a nuisance pest, they are seed feeders and do not pose a threat to crops.

**Family Chinchellidae**

**Other common true bugs**

**Family Acanthosomatidae**

**Eurygaster pseudocordata**

**Description:**
- Body is oval, black, with a distinctive red band on the sides of the pronotum. Antennae are dark brown. Legs are yellowish-brown, with contrasting orange bands.
- Adults are common in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

**Notes:**
- This genus is found throughout the United States, commonly in the Willamette Valley. Found in coastal counties.

**Family Riptortusidae**

**Boxelder bug**

**Description:**
- Red, with a distinctive orange band across the pronotum. Antennae are dark brown. Legs are yellowish-brown, with contrasting orange bands.
- Adults are common in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

**Notes:**
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**Family Scutelleridae**

**Description:**
- The scutellidae are more round and tenebrio-like when compared to pentatomids. Their scutellum is very large and extends to cover the entire abdomen.

**Other common true bugs**

**Family Nepidae**

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**Family Anthocoridae**

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**Family Coreidae**

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**Family Pentatomidae**

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**Family Rhyparochromidae**

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