

Boxelder Bug

Typical Location When Observed: In homes from fall through mid-spring. During warm periods on sun-warmed exterior walls. During growing season associated with boxelder maple.

Geographic Location: Statewide where boxelder maple (*Acer negundo*) is present

Importance/Damage: Nuisance pest in homes during cool season.

Distinguishing Features: Boxelder bugs are dark gray-black insects of moderate size (9-14 mm). Prominent red-orange markings are present along the sides of the body and form a V across the wings. Nymphs, which lack fully developed wings, have a bright red-orange abdomen.

Look-Alikes: The goldenrain bug (*Jadera haematoloma*) is another species that periodically masses and enters buildings that are near its host plant, goldenrain tree (*Koelreutria paniculata*). A common seed bug associated with many weeds, the small milkweed bug (*Lygaeus kalmii*) is also commonly mistaken for boxelder bugs but does not occur as a nuisance invader of buildings.

Resources: This insect is covered in more detail in Extension Fact Sheet 5.552, *Boxelder Bugs*.

Scientific Name: *Boisea trivittata*

Order: Hemiptera (Bugs, Aphids, Scale Insects, Cicadas, etc.)

Family: Rhopalidae (Scentless Plant Bugs)



Boxelder bug, adult



Boxelder bug nymphs and adult

Actual Length

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