

European Earwig

Typical Location When Observed: Most often outdoors, occasionally in buildings. Flower heads, sweet corn ear tips, borer holes, areas along door jambs, woodpiles and other areas that provide daytime cover are among the many sites where earwigs are encountered.



European earwig (male). Photograph courtesy of David Cappaert/IPM Images.

Geographic Location: Widespread in the state, particularly along the Front Range and at higher elevations. Absent in some areas of the eastern Plains, although range within Colorado continues to expand. This is an introduced species, native to Europe.

Importance/Damage: Locally common insect that hides in all manner of cracks and crevices. A minor pest of flowers and tender garden plants. The large hind pincers frequently cause (unwarranted) concern.

Distinguishing Features: Elongated body with pair of pincers at the tip of the abdomen. General color is brown. Adults have short wing covers that do not cover the abdomen.



European earwig found in peach pit.

Look-Alikes: Although earwigs are quite distinctive, they are sometimes confused with rove beetles. The latter have similar body shape and short wing covers, but lack the hind pincers.

Resources: The life history, habits and management of this insect are covered in Extension Fact Sheet 5.533, *European Earwigs*.

Scientific Name: *Forficula auricularia*

Order: Dermaptera (Earwigs)

Family: Forficulidae (European earwigs)

Actual Length

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