

Jerusalem Cricket

Typical Location When Observed: Outdoors, usually found under rocks. Rarely will enter basements.

Geographic Location: Western Colorado counties along Utah border

Importance/Damage: Curiosity due to bizarre appearance. These odd insects usually attract attention when encountered and are called by many common names including “child of the earth”, “potato bug”, “skull head” and “old bald-headed man”.



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Distinguishing Features: They are large insects (2-3 cm), flightless with spiny legs. Their bulbous abdomen is often banded but the most noticeable feature is their very large, round head.

General Life History and Habits: Jerusalem crickets spend most time below ground and tunnel with their powerful front legs. Much of their food consists of roots and tubers but they are omnivorous and will eat other insects as well as scavenge dead plant and animal matter.

Scientific Name: *Stenopelmatus fuscus*

Order: Orthoptera (Grasshoppers, Crickets, Katydid, and Relatives)

Family: Stenopelmatidae (Jerusalem, Sand or Stone Crickets)

Actual Length

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