

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Graham Snodgrass, Army.mil

Common Name: Kissing Bug

Scientific Name: *Triatoma sanguisuga*

Order and Family: Hemiptera: Reduviidae

Size and Appearance:

| | Length (mm) | Appearance |
|--------------------|-------------|---|
| Egg | 1.5 mm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Oval and white. |
| Larva/Nymph | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Similar in appearance to the adult but without fully developed wings. |
| Adult | 18 - 24 mm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cone like mouthpart.● Dark brown to black body.● Edge of abdomen exposed around wings with 6 red stripes on each side.● Wings with reddish-orange spots. |

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing-sucking mouthparts.

Host/s: Kissing bugs feed on the blood of vertebrate hosts including frogs, chickens, raccoons, horses, dogs, cats, armadillos, opossums, and rats. Kissing bugs also feed on humans and are known to bite the face.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): In some people, bites can cause swelling and itching. However, the more serious concern with bites is the potential transmission of Chagas disease. Chagas

disease can occur in the acute phase and the chronic phase. In the acute phase, symptoms can include fever, fatigue, aches, rash, headaches, diarrhea, and vomiting. Acute phase rarely leads to death. In chronic phase, symptoms include cardiac and gastrointestinal complications.

References:

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