

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren, Flickr

Common Name: Wheel Bug

Scientific Name: *Arilus cristatus*

Order and Family: Hemiptera: Reduviidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	3.7 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Brown and cylindrical, resembling bottles.
Larva/Nymph		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Instars 1 - 4 with red, yellow and black markings.● Fifth instar gray-brown, similar to adult.
Adult	28 - 38 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pronotum with semicircular crest with 8 - 12 tubercles.● Gray-brown body.● Reddish-brown 4 segmented antennae.● Three segmented, curved beak.

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

Host/s: The nymphs and adults feed on various arthropods, including wasps, bees, and beetles. It is also a predator of many important pests including the fall webworm (*Hyphantria cunea*), imported cabbageworm (*Pieris rapae*), Mexican bean beetle (*Epilachna varivestis*), orangedog (*Papilio cresphontes*), tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma*), bollworm (*Helicoverpa zea*), and the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*).

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Wheel bugs do not typically cause damage, but are capable of inflicting a painful bite if mishandled. The resulting wound can become inflamed and swell, with numbness lasting several days and pain lasting up to 10 days if untreated.

References:

Hagerty, A. M., & McPherson, J. E. (2000). Life history and laboratory rearing of *Arilus cristatus* (Heteroptera: Reduviidae) in southern Illinois. *Florida Entomologist*, 83(1), 58

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