

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Small Milkweed bug

Scientific Name: *Lygaeus kalmii*

Order and Family: Hemiptera, Lygaeidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		Abdomen red with black spots developing with age. Pronotum red with black markings. Wing buds black
Adult	10-12mm	Dark gray to black with orange or red bands on forewings. Head black with red spots and pronotum with transverse red band
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing/sucking mouthparts for feeding on plant or animal juices.

Host plant/s: The small milkweed bugs' primary host is milkweed on which they lay their eggs. Considered more of a generalist feeder as they feed on other plants and will scavenge on dead insects.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Primary damage may be of aesthetics, as these bugs can appear in large numbers around structures that have suitable feeding sites. Ornamental plants including some milkweed, oleander and other flowering plants will be fed upon and may show signs of feeding damage.

References:

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Root, R. B. (1986). The life of a California population of the facultative milkweed bug, *Lygaeus kalmii* (Heteroptera: Lygaeidae). Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington (USA).