

Beneficial Species Profile

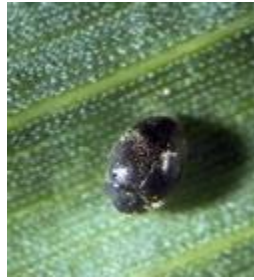


Photo credit: F.C. Schweissing, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Spider mite destroyer

Scientific Name: *Stethorus punctillum*.

Order and Family: Coleoptera; Coccinellidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	.3-.5mm	Coloration is yellowish with an oval shape.
Larva/Nymph	.5mm	Oval shaped and grayish in color with some hairs.
Adult	.5mm	Small, hairy and oval in shape with a dark brown to black color. Brownish yellow antennae.
Pupa (if applicable)	.5mm	Hairy and black and in coloration with a longer more narrow body.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host/s: The spider mite destroyer will attack two-spotted spider mites and other mites in the family Tetranychidae. It will attack spider mites in nurseries, greenhouses, orchards and small gardens.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): The spider mite is a predator that will get rid of unwanted spider mites in a horticultural setting. They work best when introduced alongside other biological controls like other predatory mites. They improve the management of a variety of pest mites in greenhouses and other environments.

References:

Cranshaw, W. (2004). Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

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