

Beneficial Insect Profile



Photo Credit: : Phil Sloderbeck, Kansas State University, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Minute Pirate Bug

Scientific Name: *Orius insidiosus*

Order, Family: Hemiptera; Anthocoridae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		Oval, creamy white
Larva/Nymph		Pear-shaped, yellowish to reddish-brown in color, wingless, about the size of a small aphid.
Adult	2-5 mm	Oval to triangular shaped, flattened with black and white markings on their backs
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host/s: Found all summer in fields, woodlands, gardens and landscapes. In late summer they migrate from fields and woodlands and can bite humans. Typically found on flowering shrubs and weeds.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): Adults feed on small insects and the eggs of other insects. Important predator of corn earworm eggs, aphids, spider mites, European corn borers, and potato leafhopper. They feed on flower pollen and plant juices when prey is not available. Minute pirate bugs are available from commercial insect suppliers but there is little research on use recommendations.

References:

Minute Pirate Bugs. (2007, October). Retrieved from
<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/iin/minutep.html>.

Wright, B. (1994, September) Know Your Friends. Minute Pirate Bugs. Retrieved from
<http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/mbcn/kyf101.html>.