

## Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Tom Murray, PBase.com

**Common Name:** Soldier beetle

**Scientific Name:** *Chauliognathus* spp.

**Order and Family:** Coleoptera; Cantharidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	19mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soft-bodied with 6 legs</li><li>• Plump, black segmented caterpillars</li><li>• Orange head with fake horns</li><li>• Rarely seen</li></ul>
<b>Adult</b>	12-19mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yellow, orange, or red in color</li><li>• Have a black pattern</li><li>• Coloration varies based on geographical location</li><li>• Elongated body</li><li>• Antennae are long and straight</li><li>• Soft, leather-like wing covers</li></ul>
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pupation occurs within small chambers in the soil</li></ul>

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Both larvae and adults have chewing mouthparts.

**Host/s:** Populate garden vegetation and flowers, searching for prey.

**Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):** Larvae and adults of many species are predators. The larvae feed on the eggs and larvae of beetles, grasshoppers, moths, and other insects, while adults feed on aphids and other soft-bodied insects. However, there are other species that are pollinators. Their larvae are herbivores and the adults feed on flower nectar and pollen and assist in pollination.

**References:**

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

Newton, B. (2006, July 5). Soldier Beetles of Kentucky - University of Kentucky Entomology. Retrieved April 3, 2016, from <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/insects/beetles/soldier/soldier.htm>