

Beneficial Insect Profile



Photo credit: Rove Beetle- *Palaminus* (2007), [Tom Murray](http://www.bugguide.net), www.bugguide.net

Common Name: Rove Beetle

Scientific Name: *Aleochara sp.*, *Palminus sp.* *Dalotia sp.*, several others.

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Staphylinidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	2 – 3mm	Small, elongated, white eggs are laid in clusters and hatch in roughly 3 – 4 days.
Larva/Nymph	10 – 14mm	Yellow, pale, and thin. Eventually darken in later instars.
Adult	3 – 4 mm	Shiny, brown to black, and elongated body. Noted for having shortened forewings that expose slender abdomen. Large mandibles and gold-colored setae are other noteworthy traits.
Pupa (if applicable)	11mm wide	Pupate underground for 13 – 14 days.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Both the larvae and the adult form of the beetle feature chewing mouthparts used to capture prey or feed on carcasses.

Host Sp. Rove beetles are naturally present in areas of decomposing matter where fly larvae is abundant. They tend to be fairly opportunistic when it comes to choice of host, but are known to feed heavily on larvae of fungus gnats, shore fly, moth fly, and the pupae of thrips and springtails.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Rove Beetles fair best when released in controlled areas such as greenhouses. Common pests of greenhouses, such as thrips and fungus gnats, are favored hosts of the Rove beetle that generally seeks out moist soil at plant bases. Upon release as either adults or

larvae, the beetle will actively feed on targeted hosts. They feature a fairly high dispersal rate due to the adults having wings, which aids in their potential to eliminate pest problems. Effectiveness is assessed by monitoring the location of the rove beetles and the ratio of hosts in the target area.

References:

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