

Pest Profile



Photo Credits: [Magnus Manske](#), 2011.

Photograph shows a typical small male and a larger female. Most reported observations are with the pairs together.

Common Name: Two-striped Walking Stick

Synonyms: Stick bug, devil's riding horse, prairie alligator, witch's horse, devil's darning needle, spitting devil, and musk mare.

Scientific Name: *Anisomorpha buprestoides* (Stoll)

Order and Family: Phasmatodea: Pseudophasmatidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	3.25mm	Small, brown, seed-like. Eggs are laid in soil and in leaf litter and overwinter until spring hatch.
Larva/Nymph		Look like small adults.
Adult	Males: 41.7mm Females: 67.7mm	Brown with two white stripes running down the back, divided by a black stripe. Walking sticks are good at camouflage, looking like a twig and hard to find. They also have the ability to regenerate lost legs.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host plants: Trees, shrubs, crepe myrtles, oaks, basswood, wild cherry, rosemary, ligustrum, and roses.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Damage to leaves is usually minor. When infestations do occur there can be significant defoliation. Feeding is nocturnal.

Medical note: The Two – striped Walking Stick has two elongated, sac-like glands in the thorax with an opening just behind the head that can squirt a strong-smelling defensive “acidic” spray. It is painful and irritating to the eyes and mucous membranes. Squirted distance has been reported up to two feet away.

References:

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