

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Maggie Heumann, UNL

Common Name: Brown Lacewing

Scientific Name: *Micromus spp.*

Order and Family: Neuroptera: Hemerobiidae

Size and Appearance: Small and fly-like in appearance with similar size and shape wings held tent-like over the soft body. Costal crossveins, or the veins on the edge of the wings, appear forked; scalloped wings. Small, prognathous (projecting outward) and free-moving head (as opposed to being fixated). Antenna and wings appear to have short brown hairs.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	<0.5mm	Non-stalked and very tiny. Can be laid singly or in masses
Larva/Nymph	<15mm	White to brown in color; Campodeiform (elongated and flat), almost alligator-like shape; larger mandibles; 3 instars
Adult	10-15 mm	Small and fly-like in appearance with similar size and shape wings held tent-like over the soft body; Costal crossveins forked in wings; wings appear scalloped; Small, free-moving, outward projecting head
Pupa (if applicable)		Exarate (appendages are free and not glued to the body)in a silken cocoon

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing and ectognathus (mouthparts retract inside of the head) mouthparts in both forms

Host/s: Wooded areas, near trees, shrubs and dense vegetation. Both adult and larval life stages feed on smaller insects such as scale species and aphids.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): Predator as both a larvae and adult.

References:

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