

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Maggie Heumann, UNL

Common Name: European Earwig

Scientific Name: *Forficula auricularia*

Order and Family: Dermaptera: Forficulidae

Size and Appearance: A small, mostly soft-bodied insect that appears reddish brown in color. Front wings appear to be shortened and disguise much longer hind wings folded up beneath. Large pincher-like cerci on abdomen. Antenna have 12-16 segments. The second tarsal segment, or “foot” of the insect on the last leg segment, is lobed beneath.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	~ 1mm but can swell to over double the size while uptaking water during development	Pearly grayish-white; laid in clustered masses
Larva/Nymph	2mm- 13mm	Strongly resemble the adult without developed wings; whitish appearance when first born; 4 instars
Adult	13-14 mm w/out cerci; 9-15mm w/ cerci	Reddish brown in color; front wings appear to be shortened and disguise much longer hind wings folded up beneath. Large pincher-like cerci on

		abdomen. Antenna have 12-16 segments; 2nd tarsal segment lobed beneath.
Pupa (if applicable)	n/a	Incomplete Metamorphosis (no pupae)

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing mouthparts on adult and immature.

Host/s: Widespread and found on a variety of hosts in all life cycles including, but not limited to, ground litter, plants, and shrubs. Also can be found in homes

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): Predator- Adult and nymph are predatory against smaller insects including mites, larvae, pupae, and some immatures of foliage destroying insects.

References:

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