

## Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Maggie Heumann, UNL

**Common Name:** Ground Beetle

**Scientific Name:** *Pterostichus spp.* (3<sup>rd</sup> largest beetle family)

**Order and Family:** Coleoptera: Carabidae

**Size and Appearance:** Typically larger in size, ground beetles have shiny hardened outside elytra (hard outer wings), long legs, an elongate thorax, and a narrow head behind their compound eyes. They are typically black or brown (with the exception of a few). They are extremely fast.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		Small, ivory and bean shaped, laid 1 at a time
Larva/Nymph	2-25mm	Campeiform, or long and flattened, in shape, typically black, and long
Adult	2-25 mm with most being between 5- 16 mm	Larger in size, ground beetles have shiny hardened outside elytra, long legs, an elongate thorax, and a narrow head behind their compound eyes; Typically black or brown and shiny in appearance

<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	<b>2-25mm</b>	<b>Coarctate pupae where the last exoskeleton molt remains hardened over the body while it undergoes metamorphosis. The beetle looks like a mummy underneath.</b>
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**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing on both larvae and adult.

**Host/s:** As larva they can be found in soil or sand, as adult ground-dwellers, can be found under rocks and logs; both larvae and adult are predators, feeding on detrimental pests like the gypsy moth, cutworms, and cankerworms.

**Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):** Predator- Both larva and adult capture and eat on almost any soil insect they come across.

#### **References:**

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