

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Maggie Heumann, UNL

Common Name: Ground Beetle

Scientific Name: *Pterostichus spp.* (3rd 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

Pupa (if applicable)	2-25mm	Coarctate pupae where the last exoskeleton molt remains hardened over the body while it undergoes metamorphosis. The beetle looks like a mummy underneath.
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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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