

## Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Maggie Heumann, UNL

**Common Name:** Predatory Plant Bug; Big-Eyed Bug

**Scientific Name:** *Geocoris spp.*

**Order and Family:** Hemiptera: Lygaeidae: Geocorinae

**Size and Appearance:** Small in size, elongate and oval. Large reniform, or kidney-shaped, eyes protruding from the head. Their breathing holes, or spiracles, are dorsally positioned on abdominal segments 3 and 4. They have four segmented antennae, a four segmented beak, and ocelli present. They have four or five veins in wing membrane.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	~0.9mm	Generally cylindrical in shape; white, yellow, or tan in color with longitudinal striations; highly sculptured with tiny hook-like appendages
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	<4.2mm	Similar in appearance to adult, except paler in color and wings not fully developed
<b>Adult</b>	~4.2mm	Small elongate and oval; Large reniform eyes protruding from the head; spiracles are dorsally positioned on abdominal segments 3 and 4; 4 segmented

		antennae, 4 segmented beak, ocelli present; 4 or 5 veins in wing membrane.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	n/a	<b>No pupae (Incomplete metamorphosis)</b>

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Piercing-sucking mouthparts in both the immature and adult.

**Host/s:** Almost any vegetation in all life stages, especially around turf and ornamental plants.

**Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):** Predatory on plant feeding insects as both an immature and adult; often used in biological control with the downside being that they feed on some plants as well

**References:**

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