

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Striped Earwig

Scientific Name: *Labidura riparia*

Order and Family: Dermaptera: Labiduridae

Size and Appearance: A small, mostly soft-bodied insect that appears pale brown in color with two lengthwise stripes on the pronotum, which is the protective outer plate covering the insect's thorax. Front wings appear to be shortened and disguise much longer hind wings folded up beneath. Large pincher-like cerci, which are paired appendages at the end of the abdomen. Male cerci are widely separated at the base, slightly curved, and symmetrical. Antennae have 14-24 segments; 4th, 5th & 6th antennae segments combined are shorter than the 1st segment. 2nd tarsal segment is cylindrical, not lobed.

	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- 18mm	Strongly resemble the adult without developed wings; whitish appearance when first born; 4 instars
Adult	18-26mm	Pale brown in color; front wings appear to be shortened and disguise much longer hind wings folded up beneath; Large pincher-like cerci on abdomen; antennae have 14-24 segments; 4 th , 5 th &

		6 th antennae segments combined are shorter than the 1 st segment. 2 nd tarsal segment is cylindrical, not lobed.
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, beaches, river banks, and irrigation fields.

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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Milne, L. J., & Milne, M. J. (1980). *The Audubon Society field guide to North American insects and spiders*. New York: Knopf.

Triplehorn, C. A., Johnson, N. F., & Borror, D. J. (2005). *Borror and DeLong's introduction to the study of insects* (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thompson Brooks/Cole.

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