Pest Profile

Photo credit: Larva: Steve Nanz- BugGuide.net - Creative Commons Adult: Ilona Loser

Common Name: Golden tortoise beetle

Scientific Name: *Charidotella sexpunctata*

Order and Family: Coleoptera; Chrysomelidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	**Appearance**
Egg	1 mm	-White, oval and flattened -Attached singly to the underside of leaves or on stems
Larva	Up to 9 mm	-Yellowish to reddish-brown in color -Larvae are broad and flattened and adorned with branched spines -Display the habit of carrying their cast skins and fecal material attached to spines -Mature larvae attach themselves to leaves by their anal end and pupate.
Adult **Adult cont.**	5 to 7 mm	-Margins of the prothorax and elytra are expanded, largely concealing the head and appendages -Expanded margins are nearly transparent instead of pigmented - Orange colored, often golden metallic
Pupa	5 to 8 mm	-Brownish -Bare spines

Type of feeder: Chewing (both adults and larvae)

Host plants: The golden tortoise beetle is associated with sweet potato and related species such as morning glory, *Ipomoea spp.*; and bindweed, *Convolvulus spp.* Only plants in the family Convolvulaceae are hosts, but golden tortoise beetles have been found on eggplant.

Description of Damage: Both larvae and adults feed on foliage, and typically create numerous small to medium-sized irregular holes. Both stages usually inhabit the lower surface but eat entirely through the foliage. Rarely are tortoise beetles abundant enough to be considered damaging.

References:

Golden tortoise beetle - Charidotella bicolor (Fabricius). (n.d.). Retrieved February 08, 2016, from http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/potato/golden_tortoise_beetle.htm

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