

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Mark H Brown, bugguide.net

Common Name: Damsel Bug

Scientific Name: *Nabis ferus*, *N. ateratus*, *N. capsiformis* – Depending on the species

Order and Family: Hemiptera, Nabidae

Size and Appearance:

	Adult	Egg	Larva/Nymph	Pupae (if applicable)
Length (mm)	8-12 mm	A few mm	Nymphs range in size from 3-8 mm long	
Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slender body, yellowish or gray or reddish-brown in color depending in species. - Elongated head with bulging eyes. - Long slender back legs and enlarged forelegs for grasping prey. - Long, needle-like mouth that's tucked under the head at rest. - 2 pairs of fully functional wings (forewings and hindwings). The forewings are hardened at the base and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - White, oblong, flattened at the base. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nymphs look like the adults, except they are smaller and without wings. - Nymphs go through five instars, with each successive instar they shed their skin, develop wing pads, and grow larger. 	

	membranous at the tip. At rest the forewings cross over the back, one over the other.			
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Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing sucking, both nymph and adult.

Host/s: Aphids and other soft insects.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): Nymph and adult damsel bugs are predatory and eat many different insect and mite species including a variety of pest insects like aphids, armyworms, corn earworm, corn borer and other insects which can destroy crops.

References:

Oregon State University. (n.d.). *Damsel Bugs*. Retrieved from <http://mint.ippc.orst.edu/damselid.htm>

BugGuide. (2016, May 2). Retrieved July 25, 2016 from <http://bugguide.net/node/view/7387>

Newton, B. (2004, May 4). University of Kentucky Entomology. Retrieved from <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/insects/bugs/damsel/damsel.htm>