Pest Profile

Photo credit: by Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska

Common Name: Boxelder Bug

Scientific Name: *Boisea trivittata*

Order and Family: Hemiptera: Rhopalidae

Size and Appearance: The adults are 11-14 mm in length, oval-shaped, and have black coloration with distinct red lines down thorax. The overall body appears flattened and the head is much narrower compared to the rest of the body. Nymphs resemble adults but lack wings and have all over red coloration.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.05 mm in length	**Eggs are yellow, laid in clusters, and located on stones, grass, and bark crevices of boxelder trees.**
Larva/Nymph	2-14 mm depending on instar	**Nymphs are bright red, oval in shape, and go through 5 instars.**
Adult	11-14 mm in length	**Oval-shaped, flattened, black, and have distinct red lines on thorax.**
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing/sucking

Host /stored food products: *Boisea trivittata* feed on Boxelder seeds and leaves, which is where their namesake comes from. They will also feed on Maple, Plums, and Apples.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Boxelder bugs are notorious for having large numbers in Autumn and often they will congregate on buildings where sunlight hits. They frequently invade homes seeking warmth and in doing so become a nuisance pest. Fecal matter causes red staining which can

destroy linens and other materials. They also produce a displeasing odor, which can cause individuals to avoid residences where they are present.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Occasional Invaders- Boxelder Bugs. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (7.6.1). National Pest Management Association International.

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Hoover, G., Jacobs, S. December 2011. Boxelder Bugs. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. Department of Entomology. Retrieved from the web on November 2nd, 2016 from http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/boxelder-bug