

# Pest Profile



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**Common Name:** European Earwig

**Scientific Name:** *Forficula auricularia* Linnaeus

**Order and Family:** Dermaptera: Forficulidae

**Size and Appearance:** The European Earwig is about 16 mm long with males having considerably larger forceps. They feature dark reddish brown coloration with lighter hue shown on the wing covers. They have 12 segmented antennae and notable forceps seen on both sexes.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	< 0.1 mm	Females lay 20-30 small eggs in underground cells. The eggs are tended to by the mother.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1-12 mm	Nymphs have 4-5 instars and closely resemble the adult.
<b>Adult</b>	12 mm	Adults are reddish brown and easily identifiable by their forceps. They also have 12 segmented antennae and small compound eyes.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing

**Host/s:** *Forficula auricularia* feed on dead plants and other insects in most situations. However, they have been known to damage flowers, fruit, ornamental plantings, and honeycomb in beehives.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Earwigs chew in irregular patterns on live plant material and it can often be confused with slugs, rabbit, or cutworm damage. The best way to be sure the damage is from an earwig is to shine a flashlight around damaged area at night, as they are nocturnal feeders and are likely to be “caught in the act.”

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Occasional Invaders- Earwigs. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (7.16.3). National Pest Management Association International.

Hahn, J., Pellitteri, P. (2016). European Earwigs in Homes and Gardens. University of Minnesota Extension. Retrieved on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 from <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/earwigs/>