

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Sowbug

Scientific Name: *Porcellio sp.*

Order and Family: Isopoda: Armadillidiidae

Size and Appearance: Sowbugs are dark gray, have 7 pairs of legs, 2 pairs of antennae, a flattened body, and segmented appearance. Like other species in the Isopoda order, sowbugs can roll their bodies up into tight balls when disturbed.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.01 mm	Clusters of 45 small, white eggs. Carried in the brood pouch of female. Young emerge from the pouch after 45 days.
Larva/Nymph	1-7 mm	Nymphs resemble adults and molt within the first 24 hours of emerging from eggs. *Nymphs have 6 pairs of walking legs
Adult	16 mm	Dark gray coloration, segmented body, 7 pairs of walking legs, 2 pairs of antennae, paired terminal appendages attached on backend.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host/s: *Porcellio sp.* have an open respiratory system and require areas of high moisture in order to survive. Therefore, they tend to seek out areas promoting humid, tropical conditions. If they are present inside, more than likely there is a large number present right outdoors, usually in flower beds, grass clippings, flower pots, and mulch.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Sowbugs do not cause physical damage indoors as they feed mostly on decaying plant matter, but can be a nuisance pest when populations are high. Outdoors they can cause injury to immature, recently potted plants in the right conditions.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Occasional Invaders- Sowbugs. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (7.20.2). National Pest Management Association International.

Potter, M.F. (1998). Sowbugs and Pillbugs. University of Kentucky Extension. Retrieved on June 30th, 2016 from <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef439>