

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Shortwinged Mole Cricket

Scientific Name: *Scapteriscus abbreviatus* (Scudder)

Order and Family: Orthoptera, Gryllotalpidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	3.0 – 3.9 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• oval to bean-shaped• they get larger as they grow and water is absorbed• color varies from grey to brownish
Larva/Nymph		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• nymphs look like the adult but do not have wings• white when hatched but quickly turn to a dark color
Adult	22.0 – 29.0 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• light tan color• cylindrical shape• short wings• the pronotum has brown spots on it• have specialized forelegs used for digging• have 2 dactyls or claws on their foreleg• short antenna

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

Host plant/s: Both the adults and nymphs feed on turf grasses such as St. Augustine grass and Bermudagrass, weeds like pigweed, and some other plants.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

The adults and nymphs feed on roots, seedlings, stems, and low foliage. They cause damage to turf grass by tunneling, eating the roots, and even pulling plants underground. They can cause girdling damage on seedlings. Their tunneling can damage grass roots, which may allow the grass to turn brown, dry out,

and then die. The short winged mole cricket is a pest of turf grasses and if unmanaged it can damage these grasses.

References:

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