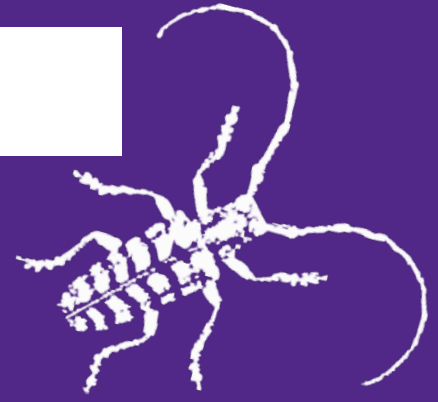


Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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August 13, 2020 No 18

WHEEL BUGS
CORN LEAF APHIDS
ID to last week's bug
Identify This Insect

WHEEL BUGS

We have had several reports about wheel bugs (fig. 1) this year from all parts of the state. These bugs are always around but are very shy, well camouflaged, slow deliberate moving, and relatively large bodied. They are predacious, often feeding on lepidoptera (butterfly/moth) larvae that are considered pests. They, thus, are considered beneficial but there just are not enough of them to really cause an impact on pests. They look relatively imposing because of their size-and they should be avoided, although they do rarely bite people, but when they do it is an EXTREMELY painful experience!



Figure 1. Wheel bug (picture by Cody Wyckoff)

Jeff Whitworth

HOME

CORN LEAF APHIDS

Corn leaf aphids feed on corn and/or sorghum and are usually most evident during the whorl stage of sorghum. This year seems to be a very good year for corn leaf aphids as we have received many inquiries relative to possible damage caused by corn leaf aphids. Corn leaf aphids can be found every year. However, I could find no data to show that corn leaf aphids ever occur in field-wide populations that would justify an insecticide application and as farther indication of this, there is no treatment threshold. Corn leaf aphids are usually just considered as a great host for beneficials to utilize to sustain their populations. Figure 2 is a corn leaf aphid being fed upon by a lady beetle larva. Sorghum, and soybeans, have been relatively pest free compared to past years, at least so far this year.



Figure 2. Lady beetle larva feeding on aphids (picture by Cody Wyckoff)

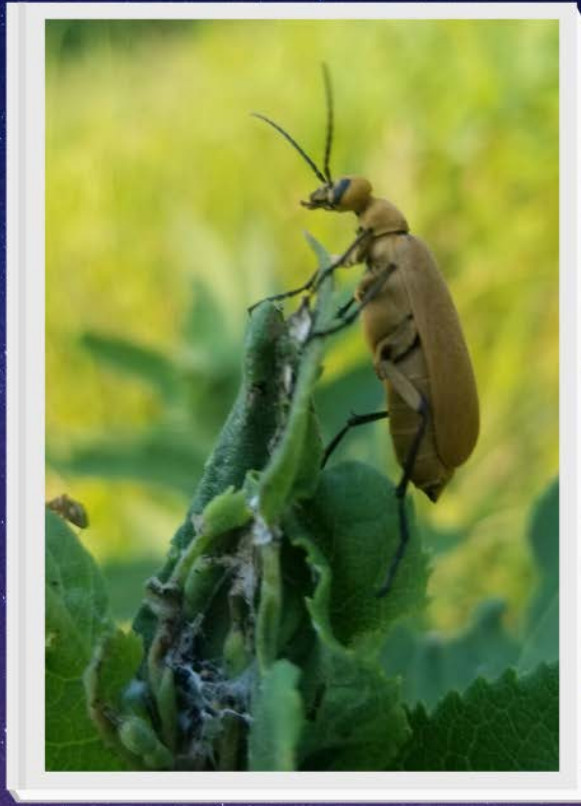
Jeff Whitworth

HOME

ID to last week's bug

Brown blister beetle – This insect can be easily recognized as a blister beetle due to its elongated, cylindrical body shape. Blister beetles produce a substance called cantharidin, which can produce nasty blisters if they are ingested or touched. Their extensive feeding habits can defoliate garden plants as well as field crops. Learn more here: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF959.pdf>

Can you identify this insect and what substance it produces?



Identify This Insect

Can you identify this insect and tell why it is beneficial?



K-STATE
Research and Extension
Integrated Pest Management

Kansas Insect Newsletter

August 13, 2020 No 18

Sincerely,

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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