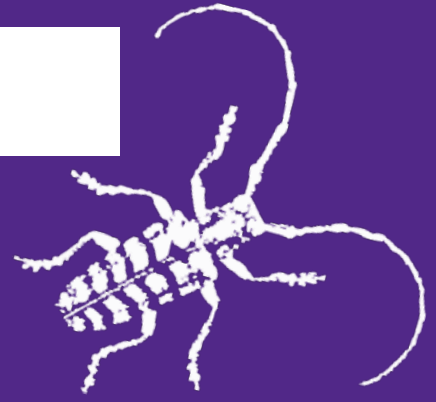


Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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ID from last week's bug
Identify This Insect
Threestriped Blister Beetle
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Three Cornered Alfalfa Hoppers
Sugarcane Aphids
Bug Joke of the Week

ID from last week's bug

Brown Lacewing: The brown lacewing is similar to the green lacewing except they are brown in color and have smaller wings that are more rounded. Females attach eggs directly to the leaf. Both the adults and larvae are predacious.

Can you identify this insect?



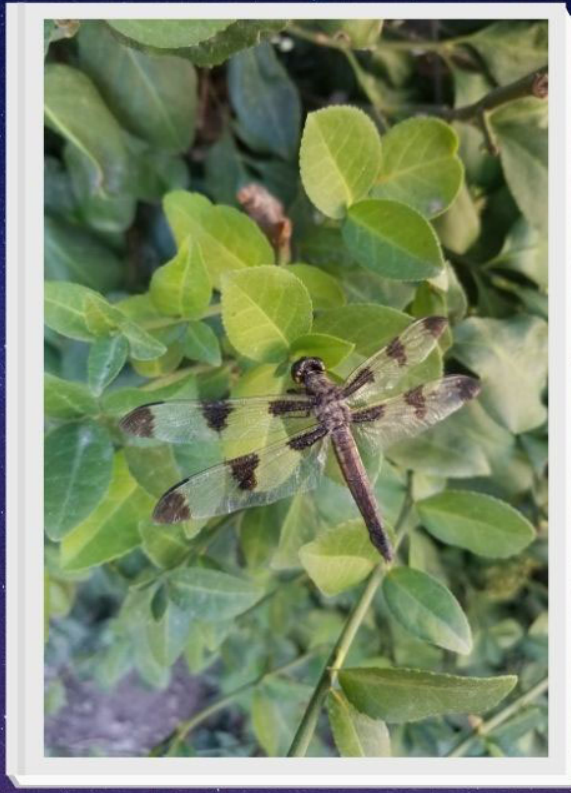
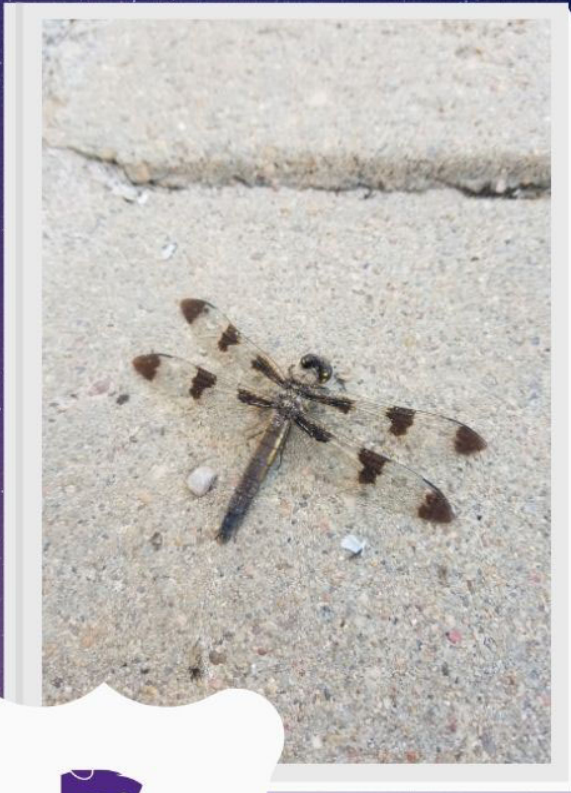
The complex block features a dark blue background. At the top, a white speech bubble contains the text "Can you identify this insect?". Below this are two side-by-side photographs of a brown lacewing insect on a green leaf. The left photo shows the insect from a side profile, and the right photo shows it from a slightly different angle. At the bottom left of the block is the K-State Research and Extension logo, which includes a stylized 'K' and the text "K-STATE Research and Extension Integrated Pest Management".

Frannie Miller

HOME

Identify This Insect

Can you identify this insect?



Threestriped Blister Beetle

The threestriped blister beetle, *Epicauta lemniscata*, is an insect pest that feeds on a wide-range of vegetable crops including: bean, beet, carrot, cabbage, corn, eggplant, melon, mustard, pea, pepper, potato, radish, spinach, squash, tomato, and turnip. Adults are slender, brown to yellow-gray, 1/2 to 3/4 (12.7 to 19.0 mm) inches long, with approximately five black stripes extending lengthwise on the wing covers or abdomen (Figure 1). In addition, there are two spots on the head and two black stripes on the thorax (middle section of body). The thorax is narrower than the head and abdomen, which is a distinguishing morphological characteristic used for identification of blister beetles.



Figure 1. Threestriped Blister Beetle Adult (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

In general, adults are present from May through October. The adults are active in the morning and late afternoon, and seek shelter during mid-day to minimize exposure to sunlight. Females lay clusters of 100 to 2,000 eggs in the soil. Larvae emerge (eclose) from eggs and feed on grasshopper eggs. Eventually, the larvae transition into pupae. The threestriped blister beetle overwinters as a late-instar larva in the soil. In spring, adults emerge from the soil and feed on vegetable plants causing damage by consuming leaf tissue with their chewing mouthparts. They tend to aggregate in groups when feeding (Figure 2). There are two generations per year in Kansas.



Figure 2. Threestriped Blister Beetle Adults Feeding (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

Management of threestriped blister beetle adult populations involves placing floating row covers over susceptible vegetable crops ensuring that the sides are fastened down to prevent adults from crawling underneath the floating row cover. Physical removal by hand-picking may be effective; however, be sure to wear leather gloves because adults emit a substance called cantharidin, which protects them from attack by predators, but can cause blisters to form on the skin of humans. Removing weeds within the vegetable garden will eliminate potential alternative food sources; especially pigweed, *Amaranthus* spp., which is

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highly susceptible to adult feeding. Foliar applications of insecticides will kill threestriped blister beetle adults; however, multiple applications will be required during the growing season to prevent plant damage.

Raymond Cloyd

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New Extension Publication

Colorado Potato Beetle: Insect Pest of Vegetable Crops

<https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3541.pdf>

This new extension publication provides information on the biology, damage, and management strategies that can be implemented to reduce damage from Colorado potato beetle.

Raymond Cloyd

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Three Cornered Alfalfa Hoppers

Three cornered alfalfa hoppers (TCAH) (see adult, fig 1.) are causing concern in southeast Kansas soybean fields. TCAH's have been reported from Kansas in prior years but not many and most often from alfalfa fields. As the name implies, they will feed from the phloem in alfalfa/sweet clover/peanuts/etc. and usually do not reach population levels that would cause economic losses-more just a novelty in Kansas, so far. However, in parts of the south and southeastern U.S. they can reach densities that may require treatment, especially in soybeans. Both nymphs (see nymph fig 2) and adults may suck the juice from the plant's phloem in such a

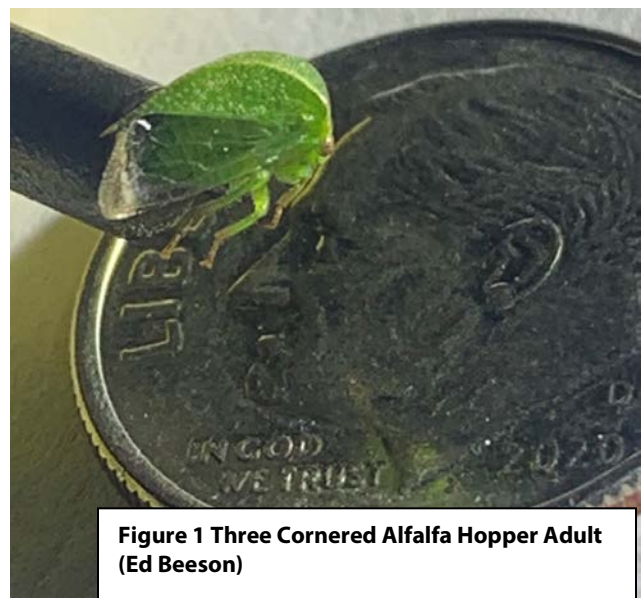


Figure 1 Three Cornered Alfalfa Hopper Adult (Ed Beeson)



Figure 2 Three Cornered Alfalfa Hopper Nymph (Ed Beeson)

pattern as to cause the stem to actually break (see fig 3.) at the point of this feeding and thus the plant may lodge. However, in Kansas, this remains a rare occurrence but one that should continue to be monitored.



Figure 3 Soybean stem (Ed Beeson)



Jeff Whitworth

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Sugarcane Aphids

Sugarcane aphids (fig. 4) are still migrating into sorghum fields throughout Kansas. However, most fields still have large populations of beneficials, thus, so far, sugarcane aphids are present but not in sufficient numbers to cause problems. However, monitoring should continue.



Figure 4 Sugar Cane Aphids (Jay Wisbey)

Jeff Whitworth

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Bug Joke of the Week

Q: How Did The Bee Get To School?

A: Using The School Buzz

Raymond Cloyd

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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