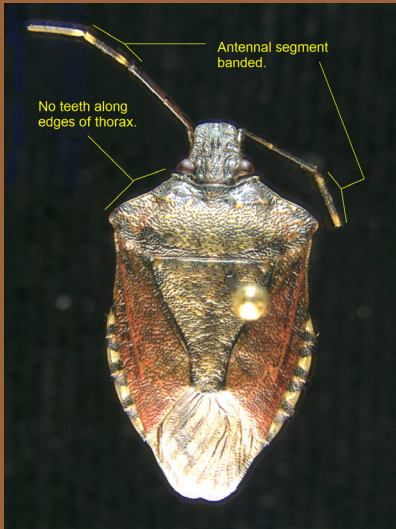


Pest Alert: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug



The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, *Halyomorpha halys*.



A Rough Stink Bug, *Brochymena quadripustula*.

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), *Halyomorpha halys* (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae), is an exotic species from Asia that is relatively new to Oregon. The first Oregon specimen was found in 2004, in Portland east of the Willamette River. As of 2009, BMSB is clearly firmly established in the Portland metro area. Specimens have been found from north Portland south to Oregon City and from Hillsboro east to Clackamas. Based upon homeowner reports, east Portland appears to be the most heavily infested area. Two specimens, each from a different locality, have been found in Salem. However, there is no evidence at this time of any established population outside of the Portland metro area.

The native range of BMSB includes China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. It was first found in the United States in 2001. Before the Portland specimen was found, it was only known in the U.S. from Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. It is not known how this pest was introduced into the U.S., although it may have hitchhiked on cargo or cargo containers from Asia.

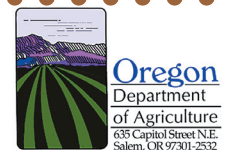
BMSB is considered a major agricultural pest in Asia, where it attacks and damages a wide variety of crops, including apples, apricots, beans, cherries, grapes, pears, peaches, and soy beans. Some Pennsylvania organic farmers have already experienced heavy damage to their fruit harvest by this invasive insect. Similar crops in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest could be threatened by BMSB if it becomes widespread in the region.

Like several other insects in Oregon, such as box elder bugs and the Asian multicolored lady beetle, BMSB can invade houses or apartments in the fall and early winter while seeking shelter for the winter. Where BMSB is established, it can enter homes by the hundreds and thousands, which can be very disturbing to the residents. However, these bugs are harmless to people, although as the name suggests, they can release an unpleasant odor when disturbed. ODA now receives more reports of BMSB in homes than for any other insect found in that situation.

There are several native stinkbugs that closely resemble BMSB. Rough stink bugs, *Brochymena quadripustulata* and its relatives, are often encountered. As the above pictures illustrate, adult rough stink bugs can be easily distinguished from adult BMSB. Rough stink bugs have distinct teeth on the edges of the thorax, or “shoulders,” just behind the head and all the antennal segments are one color. BMSB have no teeth on the edges of the thorax and the last two antennal segments have white bands.

Because BMSB is a crop pest, ODA is closely tracking its distribution in Oregon. If you think you’ve found BMSB outside of the Portland metro area, please contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the **Oregon Invasive Species Hotline, 1-866-INVADER (1-866-468-2337)** or e-mail ODA’s taxonomic entomologist, **James LaBonte**, at jlabonte@oda.state.or.us.

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This information is available in other formats if needed.
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small BMSB photo: Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org