

MINUTE PIRATE BUG Hemiptera: Anthocoridae *Orius tristicolor*

DESCRIPTION

Adults are oval-shaped, about 3 mm long, very flat, and marked conspicuously with black and white markings. **Nymphs** are fragile, yellow or amber colored. Nymphs and adults have piercing-sucking mouthparts enclosed in a long beak.

LIFE HISTORY

The minute pirate bug overwinters as an adult in protected areas, such as under tree bark or boards, around homes and other buildings, and in trash around field margins. Adults emerge during early spring and females insert their eggs in plant tissues. There are three or four generations each year in the northwest.

IMPORTANCE

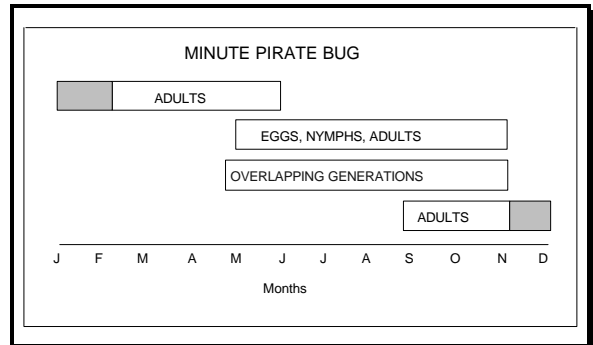
Adults and nymphs are very active predators and may be found on all aerial parts of plants. Active stages feed by sucking the body fluids from aphids, spider mites, thrips, insect eggs, and immature stages of many small insects. They are particularly effective predators of thrips and spider mites. Adults and immature stages may consume more than 30 spider mites per day.



Minute pirate bug adult



Minute pirate bug nymph



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