

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Robert Webster (Xpda), Wikimedia

Common Name: Striped Blister Beetle

Scientific Name: *Epicauta vittata*

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Meloidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1.4 - 2.1 mm (long) 0.7 mm (wide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● White and elongated.
Larva/Nymph		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Long legs and mobile in the first instar.● White in color for first instar.● Legs reduced in size in subsequent instars.● Later instars reddish brown. Dark brown bands on the thorax and abdomen.
Adult	9 - 17 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Elongated body with thorax narrower than head and abdomen.● Yellowish-orange in color.● Two to three black stripes on the elytra.● Two black stripes on the head.● Two black stripes on the thorax.● Hindwings transparent.

Pupa (if applicable)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● White in color but darkens during development. ● Similar in appearance to the adult form, but wings and legs held tightly to the body.
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Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host/s: Adults feed on a variety of plants including bean, beet, carrot, cabbage, corn, eggplant, melon, mustard, pea, pepper, potato, radish, spinach, squash, sweet potato, tomato, clover, soybean, and pigweed. Larvae feed on grasshopper eggs.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Striped blister beetles damage the leaves of many common crops by defoliation, especially in aggregations. This species has been implicated in the transmission of bean pod mottle virus in soybean which leads to yellow mottling in upper leaves and yield loss. Contamination of cantharidin on plants consumed or touched by animals can lead to blistering.

References:

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