




Hello folks....Monthly IPM update here:

 **West Nile Virus activity** to date for 2005 totals 19 confirmed human cases. We're still very much in mosquito season, so please remain vigilant for any standing water around your schools, homes, neighborhoods. In ideal conditions (as we have here in Arizona at this time of year) *Culex tarsalis*, one of the west's best WNV mosquito vectors, needs only 4 days to complete its life cycle!

 **School IPM Checklists** – we handed these checklists out at the last meeting.... These checklists are serving a dual role, both equally important. First, we're using your suggestions (and those of the staff you choose to fill them out) to create working checklists for national IPM use. Do they need different or additional questions? Are the existing questions impertinent? Second, we you're your response data to justify EPA grant monies used for the IPM program. Please snail mail whatever you have completed to Dawn Gouge, UA Maricopa Ag. Center, 37860 W. Smith-enke Rd., Maricopa, AZ 85239. Thanks for your cooperation & feedback, folks!

 The latest insect “bloom” we're all seeing (and hearing complaints about) includes two Hemipteran species: **Largus cinctus** (Phoenix Valley area) and **Neocoryphus lateralis** (more so in the Tucson area). See attached pix for both. The *Largus cinctus* is a benign bug going by the common name “bordered plant bug”. We were hard pressed to find any information on this critter's ecology to share with you all, so we asked our favorite bugman Carl Olson, Associate Curator with the Dept. Entomology (UA) who has encyclopedic knowledge on any bug we've ever asked about. Here's what Carl had to say about *Largus cinctus*....

Well the reason you couldn't find any basic ecology about *Largus* is because there probably isn't anything written down. Nobody cares. *L. cinctus* is the common SW species. The word out about the family is:

Related to seed bugs and cotton stainers. Has 4 segmented beak, front wing membrane with 7-8 branching veins arising from 2 large basal cells; no ocelli; stout bodied. Various species are plant feeders found on ground or low weedy vegetation. Some are ant mimics. The few records about *Largus* suggest they are polyphagous.

So in the book *Heteroptera of Economic Importance*, *Largidae* are dealt with in *Pyrrhocoroidea* with *Pyrrhocoridae* the cotton stainers. The sentence about them being polyphagous was all they said and the only important genus they discussed was *Dysdercus*, the cotton stainers.

We find *Largus* all the time and it means nothing in the grand scheme because their eating habits are never noticed. Who cares. They hang around on the ground, walk on plants or the sidewalk, seldom if ever

do they get in homes because of their size, never feign biting, so they only negative is that they copulate in front of children and set an example for free love! What more can one say.

Not that this glib report will help you but it was fun creating.

Carl.

The plant bugs will dwindle soon enough. Meantime, if you're finding them congregating lights and cannot replace the white bulbs for yellow ones, simply sweep them up.

Thanks All,

Dawn & Jennifer