

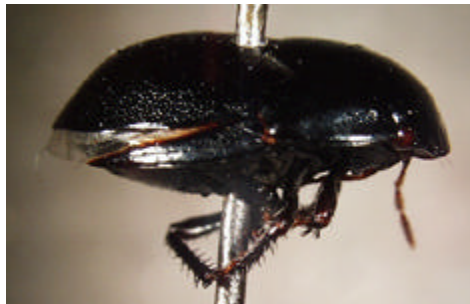
University of Florida Entomology and Nematology
Family: Thyreocoridae Amyot and Serville, 1843 (Heteroptera)
Literature-based Key to Species and Subspecies of Thyreocoridae in Florida

Insect Classification (ENY 4161/6166) Fall 2002

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Galgupha atra Amyot and Serville, 1843



Family: Thyreocoridae Amyot and Serville, 1843

The Negro Bug Biology

The family of insect, Thyreocoridae, also known as the negro bug are of the Order: Heteroptera. They appear at first glance to resemble beetles, specifically Histeridae, but under closer observation the four jointed beak and large scutellum, which covers almost the entire abdomen, becomes clearly visible. The antennae of the negro bugs are five segmented, ocelli are present and several species have spines on their tibia. The tarsi of Thyreocoridae are three jointed (Uhler, 1872). This insect is usually found near grasses, weeds and shrubs where they mostly feed on flowers and seeds. Some species of this family cause injury to plants including food crops and ornamentals. Female negro bugs attach their eggs with a sticky substance on plants. After hatching immature larvae feed on plants along side of the adult insects. Some authors use the family name Cormelaenidae, but the family name Thyreocoridae is older and is accepted as the proper name (Froeschner, 1843). Three genera occur in North America--*Cydnoides*, *Galgupha*, *Corimelaena*, all of which occur in the eastern United States (Uhler, 1872).

Family Thyreocoridae Amyot and Serville, 1843

Key to the Genera of Florida Thyreocoridae

1. Side margins of pronotum and abdomen ciliate with long hairs; hind tibiae with long spines on five surface **I. *Cydnoides* Malloch, 1919**
- Side margins of body not ciliate **2**
2. Costal margin of corium wholly black, bordered within by a distinct groove; femora armed beneath with short, stout, preapical spines; hind tibiae with long spines on five surfaces **II. *Galgupha* Amyot and Serville, 1843**
- Costal margin usually in part ivory-white, without an inner groove; femora with only a few fine bristles; hind tibiae with short, widely separated spines on four surfaces **III. *Corimelaena* White, 1839**

Key to Species (and Subspecies) of Florida Thyreocoridae

I. *Cydnoides* Malloch, 1919

1. Corium purplish-black, reddish-brown, or bronzed ***ciliatus* (Uhler), 1863**
- Corium entirely fuscous to black ***ciliatus orientis* McAtee and Malloch, 1933**

II. *Galgupha* Amyot and Serville, 1843

1. Punctation (depressions) on posterior portions of pronotum and scutellum, scutellum gradually declivent posteriorly (figure 1) ***ovalis* Hussey, 1925**
- Pronotum and scutellum not as described above **2**
2. Scutellum angulate apically (figure 2) ***denudata* (Uhler), 1863**
- Scutellum broadly rounded apically (figure 3) ***atra* Amyot and Serville, 1843**

III. *Corimelaena* White, 1839

1. Pale border of elytra widened near base, crossing the sub-costal nervure onto corium; horny costal margin of elytra with apex obtusely rounded; length 2.5-3 mm. ***pulcaria* (Germar), 1839**
- Pale border of elytra not widened near base **2**
2. Less than 2.5 mm in length **3.**
- 3.5-4.5 mm in length **4.**
3. Blue-black, dull in color on upper surface, minutely roughly punctuated all over ***minuta* Uhler, 1863**
- Black with a brassy lustre, abdomen with sides finely and closely punctate, middle almost smooth ***marginella* Dallas, 1851**
4. Corium narrow, tip acute (figure 4) ***lateralis* (Fabricius), 1803**

---Corium rounded at tip..... (figure 5) *lateralis lateralis* (Fabricius), 1803

Family: Thyreocoridae
General dorsal view

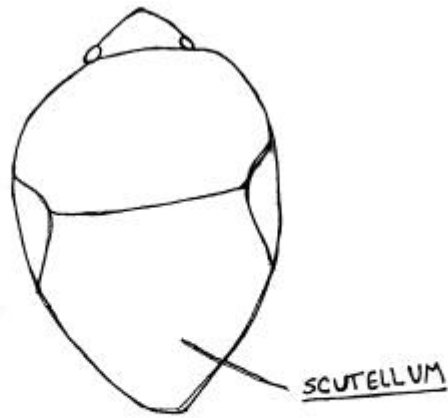


Fig 1
Galgopha ovalis
scutellum in profile



Fig 2
Galgopha denudata
Apex of scutellum from above



Fig 3
Galgopha atra
Apex of scutellum from above



Fig 4
Corimelaena lateralis
corium narrow TIP Acute



Fig 5
Corimelaena lateralis lateral
Corium rounded at tip

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