

Kudzu Bug

Megacopta cribraria



Photo: ©2007 Charles Lam, Wikimedia commons



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Kudzu Bug

- First species of Plataspidae family in Western Hemisphere!
- 2009: First detection in U.S. (Georgia)
- Agricultural pest to legumes
- Nuisance pest to homeowners



Photos:

(Top) - Michasia Harris, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org #5474627; (Bottom) - Daniel R. Suiter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org # 5407722

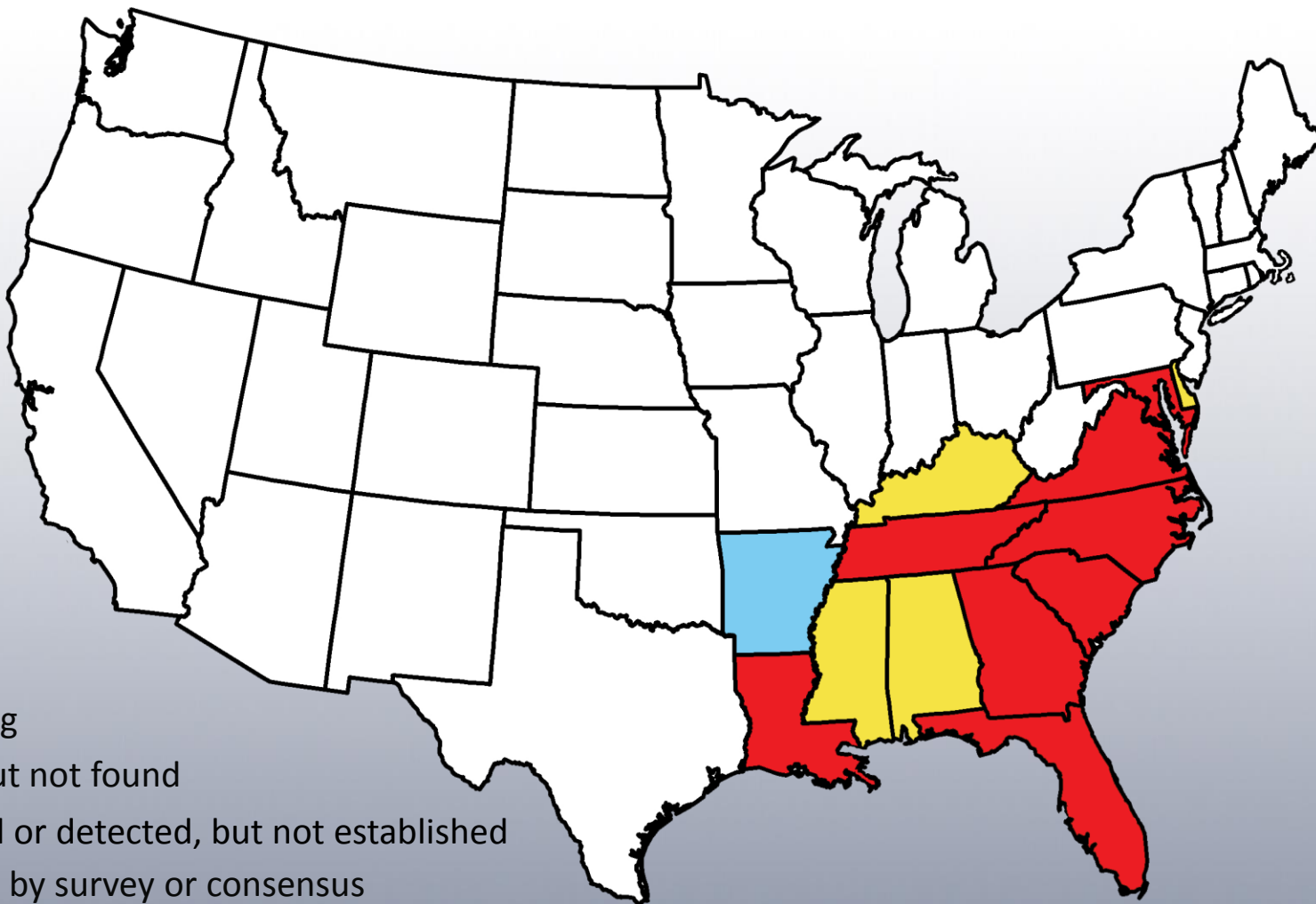


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Kudzu Bug Distribution



- ☐ No sampling
- ☐ Sampled but not found
- ☐ Intercepted or detected, but not established
- ☐ Established by survey or consensus

Map courtesy of Pest Tracker, National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS), and The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, eddmeps.org
Photo: Russ Ottens, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org #5475145



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Susceptible Plants

In the United States:

- Kudzu
- Soybean and other legumes
- Corn
- Sweet potato
- Wisteria
- Wheat

In native regions:

- NOT an agricultural pest



Kudzu bug on soybean

Photo: Michasia Harris, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org #5473918



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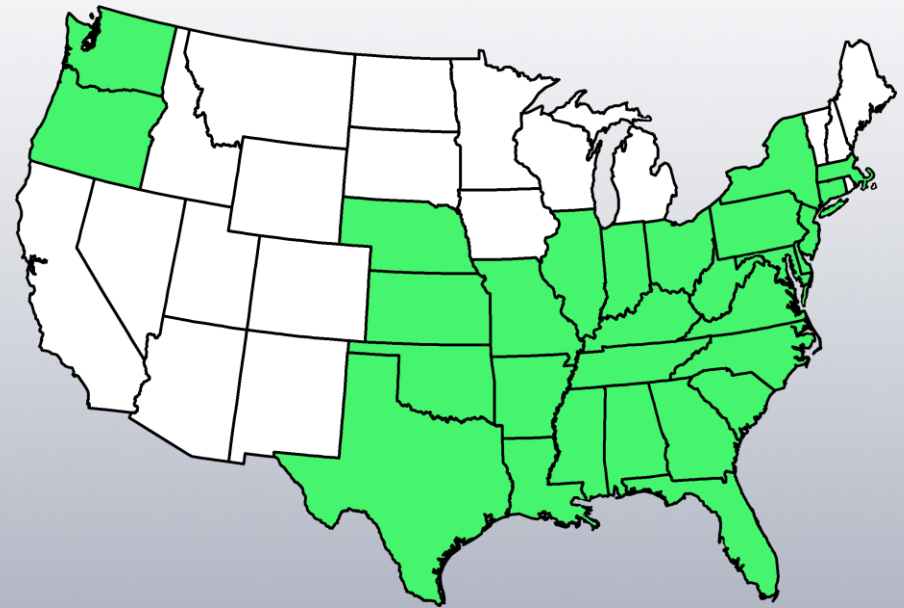


Kudzu

"The vine that ate the South"



Kudzu vine



■ Distribution of Kudzu

Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org #5483399; Map courtesy of USDA database, National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS)



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Identification

Eggs



Nymphs



Symbiont capsules in egg mass



Hairy appearance of nymphs

Photos: (Top) - Joe Eger, Dow AgroSciences, Bugwood.org #5471831; Yasmin Cardoza, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org #5472919
(Bottom) - Yasmin Cardoza, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org #5472911; Michasia Harris, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org #5474632



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Identification - Adult

- Small, 3.5 – 6 mm (0.14 – 0.24 in) long
- Pseudosuture
- Enlarged scutellum
- Truncated posterior end

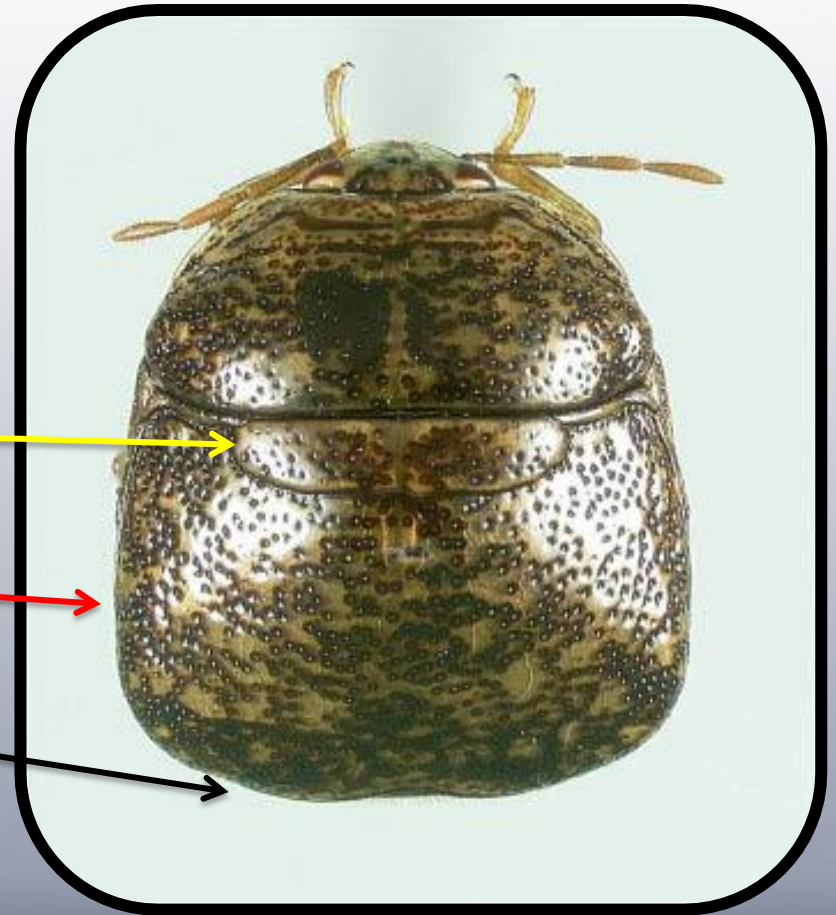


Photo: Lilyconnor, wiki.bugwood.org.



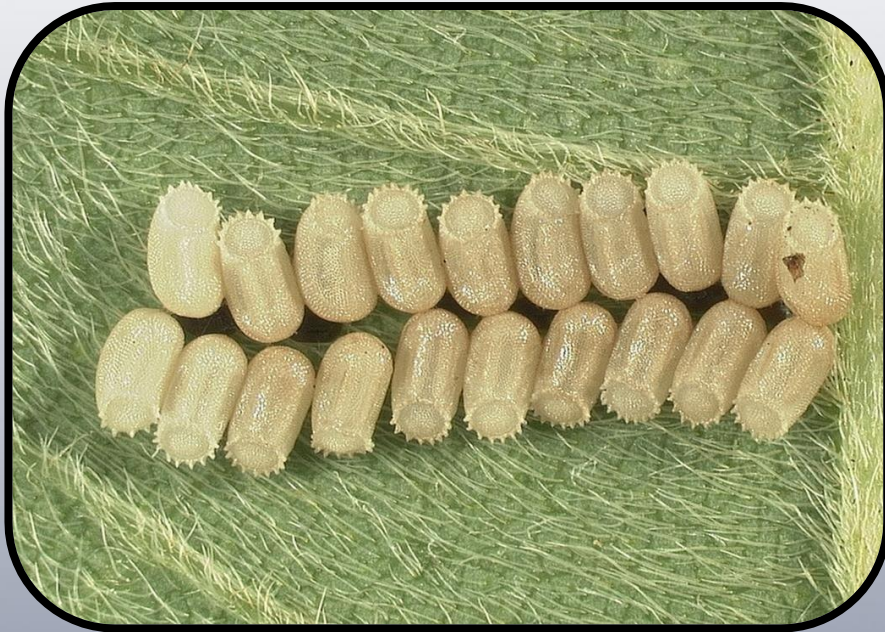
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Life Cycle

Development from egg to adult takes 6-8 weeks

Egg mass



Nymphs and adults



Photos: Joe Eger, Dow AgroSciences, Bugwood.org #5471831; Michasia Harris, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org #5474633



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Damage

Kudzu bugs on corn



Kudzu bugs on kudzu



Kudzu bugs use piercing-sucking mouthparts to tap into the veins of plants and extract phloem

Photos: Jeremy Greene, Clemson University, Bugwood.org #5426340; Joseph LaForest, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org # 5461420



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Nuisance Pest



- Overwinters on houses, buildings, and vehicles

- Attracted to white and yellow surfaces

- Emits a pungent odor when disturbed
 - Staining and skin irritation



Photos:

Jeremy Greene, Clemson University, Bugwood.org #5426287;

Michael Toews, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org #5455581



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Management

Outside control methods:

- Insecticides for temporary relief
- Biological control (in progress)

Inside control methods:

- Properly seal all windows, doors, and small cracks.
- Replace damaged window screens.
- Close off all other areas (such as vents) with wire mesh or screening.

Kudzu bug on soybean



Photo: Russ Ottens, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org #5475145



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Look-alikes

Kudzu bug

Megacopta cribraria



Shield-backed bug

Orsilochides guttata



Thyreocorid

Galgupha ovalis



Photos: Lilyconnor, wiki.bugwood.org; bugguide.net; Don Griffiths, Spencer Entomological Collection, Beaty Biodiversity Museum, UBC



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Collaborating Agencies

- U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS)
- Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program (CAPS)
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
- National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN)
- Sentinel Plant Network (SPN)
- Protect U.S.
- University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS)



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