

Conchuela and Say's Stink Bug

Both the **conchuela** (*Chlorochroa ligata*) and **Say's stink bug** (*C. sayi*) can be found in a great many crops and common weeds. Both are moderately large (length 13-19mm). Say's stink bug is consistently green, but the conchuela can be highly variable in color, ranging from dark brown, to reddish brown to green. A single light spot is present at the tip of the triangular plate (scutellum) on the back of the conchuela; Say's stink bug also has three light spots on the front of this triangular plate.

Winter of both species is spent as an adult, hidden under plant debris and other protective cover, and they emerge in spring to feed on plants. Legumes are particularly favored by the conchuela with alfalfa being an important early season host in many areas. Say's stink bug tends to feed more often on grasses, with winter wheat an important early season host.

Egg laying by the conchuela may begin in mid-May and continues through midsummer. Eggs are laid in masses, each averaging about 30 eggs. Eggs hatch in one to two weeks and the newly-emerged nymphs typically remain clustered about the eggs for a few days, before dispersing. Flowers and developing seeds are favored feeding areas, but they will also feed on leaves. Feeding occurs with piercing-sucking mouthparts that extract plant fluids. Some localized injury occurs at feeding sites, which may appear as a small discolored area, and developing seeds may be deformed or abort.

It takes about between 35-60 days after egg hatch for the developing nymphs to reach the adult stage. The nymphs are smaller than the



Adults of the (top) Say's stink bug and (middle, bottom) conchuela stink bug.



Egg mass (top) and nymph (bottom) of the *Chlorochroa* species of stink bugs. Photograph courtesy of Ken Gray Collection, Oregon State University.

adults, have a somewhat more rounded body form and lack wings, so their abdomen is exposed. The adult insects continue to feed until early fall, then move to sheltered sites to survive winter. Adults of the conchuela sometimes show aggregation behaviors and may appear clustered on plants or, sometimes, on the sides of buildings. Life history is generally similar with Say's stink bug except it may produce two or more generations per season; the conchuela only produces a single generation.

Damage to hemp by these stink bugs is likely to be minimal, largely limited to injury and potential abortion of some seeds. They are unlikely to ever become very abundant in fields and can be expected to be concentrated along field edges.

Hemiptera: Pentatomidae