

Hyaline Grass Bug

Hyaline grass bug (*Liorhyssus hyalinus*) can be a common insect in flowering hemp with developing seeds.

The adults move into hemp from various weed hosts on which they develop early in the season. Adults then begin to lay masses of reddish eggs, usually on small leaves or amongst flowers and developing seeds. The newly emerged nymphs that hatch from these eggs are initially reddish but become more straw colored or mottled as they get older. Almost all of the insects in hemp are present in the vicinity of the seed head where it is thought that they feed on flowers, developing seeds, and foliage, sucking fluids with piercing-sucking mouthparts. Sometimes a collection of rusty colored fluid excreted by the insects may be visible on the leaves in the seed head.

Hemp appears to be a favored crop and egg laying has been observed to occur continuously into October, when plants are harvested. Some further development also has been noted in harvested seed heads as they dry. Overwintering stages of hyaline grass bug in Colorado may be a mixture of both adults and nymphs, as occurs with false chinch bug. In spring various winter annual or perennial weedy hosts support this insect, including prickly sowthistle, red-stem filaree, and cheeseweed. (Despite its common name, this insect does not breed on grasses.)

No obvious damage to hemp by hyaline grass bug has been observed. Feeding on developing seeds may have some effects on seed viability and this needs further study.

Hemiptera: Rhopalidae



Adults of the hyaline grass bug, with mating pair at the top. Coloration of the adults can be quite variable.



Egg mass of hyaline grass bug



Hyaline grass bugs at egg hatch



Hyaline grass bug nymphs in seed head



Late stage nymph of hyaline grass bug



Rusty-colored fluid excreted by hyaline grass bug nymphs