

Minute Pirate Bug

The **minute pirate bug** (*Orius insidiosus*) is among the smallest of the predators of insects that occur in hemp, adults being 2-3 mm in length. However, they can be among the most abundant, particularly in hemp fields with flowers, which are particularly important in development of populations of their primary prey, thrips. In addition to thrips, minute pirate bugs may also feed on spider mites and many of the smaller insects on the crop, such as aphids, and young stages of various bugs, caterpillars and beetle larvae.



Adult minute pirate bug.

Although the winged adult insects are marked with conspicuous black and white patterning, the wingless immature stages (nymphs) are generally yellowish or yellowish-brown. Superficially they may resemble a small aphid, but they can be distinguished by being much more active in movement and by lacking the “tail-pipe” cornicles that extend from the abdomen of aphids.

Hemiptera: Anthocoridae



An immature minute pirate bug, feeding on a leafhopper. Photograph courtesy of Harold Larsen, Colorado State University.