



Hemiptera: Anthocoridae
Orius species.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Minute Pirate Bugs are found on a wide range of crops. They are generalist predators and will attack almost anything small enough for them to handle. When prey are not available they feed on pollen and plant juices, so look for them in corn silks and where there are spring and summer flowering shrubs and weeds.



Minute Pirate Bug Nymph
among spider mite eggs.

Predators: Minute Pirate Bugs

PRIMARY PREY

- Insect eggs, small caterpillars, thrips, mites and aphids.

PREDATORY STAGES

- nymphs and adults.

APPEARANCE

- adults are small (2-3mm)
- black with white X-shaped patches on wings
- very mobile
- *Orius* nymphs are yellow-orange or brown and teardrop-shaped

VEGETABLE CROPS

- greenhouse crops
- sweet corn, beans, tomato, and many others.

Natural Enemies of Vegetable Insect Pests in Hawaii



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PREDATORS

Predators are beneficial insects that attack, kill, or consume a wide variety of common pests. Males, females, immatures, and adults may all be predatory. Predators include lacewings, flies, spiders, beetles, true bugs, and predatory mites.

Immature and adult minute pirate bugs can consume 30 or more spider mites per day. They are also voracious thrips predators. *Orius* have also been observed feeding on leafhopper nymphs in corn.

Reducing use of broad-spectrum insecticidal sprays conserves populations. Also, planting spring and summer flowering plants will help them survive periods of scarce prey.



Orius sp. side view, shows mouthparts (rostrum). It uses the rostrum to pierce and suck the contents of prey items.

WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR YOU



Corn earworm larvae

PESTS ATTACKED

- eggs and young larvae of corn earworm and corn leafhoppers
- Thrips species in flowers and on foliage
- spider mites

