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Red and black bugs can be found crawling in your garden, and they can also invade your home. Identifying insects with a red and black body can help know how to get rid of them and if they are dangerous. The most common red and black insects in yards and houses in spring are boxelder bugs and red-shouldered bugs. The annoying insects can become a nuisance indoors even though they are generally harmless. Seeing bugs with red and black coloring can create a sense of panic. For example, the oval insect's black body and bright red or orange dots or stripes could appear dangerous due to warning red colors. Or red insects that have black markings may have a menacing appearance. Some red and black bugs like the boxelder bug can also inflict an irritating bite. Many people refer to all kinds of red and black pests as bugs. However, not all colorful insects in your house or garden are bugs in the scientific sense. True bugs are insects that belong to the order Hemiptera. The six-legged insects have two antennae and piercing mouthparts that allow the red and black bugs to bite into plant tissue to suck its juices. This article refers to all types of red and black insects or arthropods as bugs, even though some are not bugs in the true sense. Descriptions and pictures of black bugs with red markings will help identify the creeping crawly you have discovered in your house or yard. How to Identify Red and Black Bugs and Insects Apart from the red and black coloring, you can identify a bug or insect by its six legs, two antennae, and if it has wings or not. Red and black bug identification is also possible by observing the insect's size, behavior, habitat, and distinguishing markings. Some black and red bugs are so tiny you need a magnifying glass to identify them correctly. For example, flying red and black bugs like boxelder bugs (Boisea trivittata) and red-shouldered bugs (Jadera haematoloma) look similar. However, boxelders have more prominent red stripes on their black body. But, both types of bugs are easy to distinguish from red and black beetles that have rounded hard shells and wings. Types of Red and Black Bugs (with Pictures) – Identification Guide Let's look in more detail at 15 types of common bugs that can be identified by their red and black colors. Boxelder Bug (Boisea trivittata) Boxelder bugs have a flat black body with orange-red markings The boxelder bug is a common black and red flying bug with reddish or orange lines or markings on a flattened, elongated oval body. Adult winged boxelder bugs measure 0.5" (13 mm) long. Boxelder bugs are active from spring through fall and are found on maples, boxelder trees, ash trees, and strawberries. Like all insects, black and orange boxelder bugs have six legs and two antennae. Adult females lay brightly colored red eggs on host plants. Boxelder nymphs are identified by their bright red bodies and black heads. As the black and orange bugs mature, they become dark gray and develop dark orange stripes. Adult and nymph boxelder bugs You may get a lot of boxelder bugs in your home if there is a food source nearby. These small annoying pests enter buildings in summer through open windows, doors, or cracks in the siding or foundation. You may see masses of black and red bugs near cracks as they clamber to get into a house. The red and black winged boxelder bugs are also excellent fliers and may come from nearby infested boxelder trees. Black and red boxelder bugs can bite, but it's rare they bite humans. They are more of a nuisance pest in the home, especially if you have a large infestation. Because the bugs are inactive when it's cold, turning on the heating may cause them to become active and start crawling throughout your house. The best way to get rid of boxelder bugs is to prevent them from getting into your home. For example, window or door screens can stop the red and black bug flying into your home. Also, caulking cracks around windows and in walls will help keep all insects out. Even though boxelder bugs are classified as "scentless plant bugs," they emit a pungent, foul-smelling odor when crushed. If you see groups of red and black bugs on the sides of your house, you can spray them with insecticidal soap or hot soapy water to dislodge and kill them. Red and Black Bug Identification The boxelder bug is identified by its dark gray or black body, with orange-red markings on its wings and back. Red-Shouldered Bug (Jadera haematoloma) Red-shouldered bugs have a black oval flat body with red markings and red eyes Also called the soapberry bug, the red-shouldered bug is a black insect with bright red markings on its shoulders and wing edges. The grayish-black bug also has identifiable bright red eyes. The black and red bugs measure around 0.5" (13 mm) long and have distinctive flattened oval bodies. Red-shouldered bug nymphs have a bright red body and a black head. Like boxelder nymphs, they have black heads, dark brown or black legs, and antennae. Red-shouldered bug adult and nymph Red-shouldered bugs are common in Florida gardens. The short-winged black and red bugs are primarily found on host trees feeding on leaves and stems. However, you will also find the bugs on lawns where they congregate in masses to feed on seeds fallen from trees. Red-shouldered bugs look like boxelder bugs and are classed as scentless plant bugs. The way to tell the bugs apart is by the red markings. Jadera haematoloma is mostly a dark gray or black color with only red shoulders and a thin red stripe running along each edge. Crushing red-shoulder bugs can leave a reddish stain on clothing. Red and Black Bug Identification To identify a red-shouldered bug, look for its elongated oval body with vibrant red colors on its shoulders and body edges. Milkweed Assassin Bug (Zelus longipes) Milkweed assassin bug can be identified by its distinctive red and black colored body, very long antennae and legs The milkweed assassin bug is identified by its bright red body with black patterns, six long black legs, and pair of black wings. In addition, milkweed assassin bugs have a slender body with an elongated oval abdomen, and a long sucking mouthpart. Up close, pictures of these red and black bugs show they have white markings on the underside of the abdomen. Milkweed assassin nymph Milkweed assassin bugs measure approximately 0.5" (20 mm) long. The red and black bugs are beneficial insects that prey on caterpillars, flies, mosquitoes, and destructive beetles. The slender bugs are not aggressive, but they can inflict a painful bite if you trap them. Red and Black Bug Identification The milkweed assassin bug has an easily-identifiable bright-red and black pattern, slender body with jet black hairy legs, two long black antennae, and a long piercing snout-like mouthpiece. Firebug (Pyrrhocoris apterus) Firebugs can be easily identified by their red body with black round spots and triangular markings The firebug is a small red bug with black round spots and triangular markings on its back. The striking bug is easy to recognize in gardens due to its distinctive red and black coloration. The small red and black bug measures 0.4" (10 mm) long and can be found feeding on lime trees and mallow trees. Red and black firebugs are not dangerous because they don't bite humans or harm trees. However, hordes of creeping crawlies in homes can become a nuisance. Red firebugs invade homes in the fall to overwinter in warmer places. If you crush them, red firebugs cause a nasty stench, and the smell may attract other insects. Additionally, the red color can leave a stain on clothing and carpets. If you find them in your home, vacuuming them is usually the best solution to get rid of them. Red and Black Bug Identification The firebug has an easily identifiable red oval body with two striking black dots and two black triangles on its back. In addition, the red bug has black legs and two black antennae. Mediterranean Red Bug (Scantius aegyptius) The Mediterranean red bug is very similar to firebug and both belong to the family Pyrrhocoridae, but the firebug has 2 extra tiny black dots The Mediterranean red bug is a brightly colored insect with an orange-red body and striking black markings. This seed-feeding red bug is difficult to tell apart from the firebug. The Mediterranean red bug has two black spots and a black triangular hourglass marking contrasting with the reddish-orange color on its back. The Mediterranean red bug measures 0.27" to 0.35" (7 – 9 mm), and the invasive black and red bug is common in California. The immature bugs are generally entirely red and develop black spots as they mature. Red and Black Bug Identification To identify the Mediterranean red bug, look for two black spots and a large black hourglass marking on a red-orange elongated oval body. Red and Black Blister Beetle (Meloidae) The red and black blister beetle (Mylabris quadripunctata) has a black head and red body with black round spots Some species of blister beetles are red insects with black spots covered in fine hairs. For example, the Mylabris quadripunctata beetle has a slender, bright red body with two rows of black dots and black markings at its tail. In addition, the red beetle has a small round black thorax and a small black head. Red and black blister beetles measure 0.4" to 0.8" (10 – 20 mm) long. They usually feed on insects and insect eggs and may also feed on flowers and leaves, causing some damage. Blister beetles get their name from the poisonous liquid contained in their bodies. This can cause skin irritation and blistering if you squash one of them and the secretion gets on your skin. Related reading: How to identify types of beetles. Red and Black Bug Identification Red and black blister beetles have bright red bodies with several black spots, six black legs, and two clubbed antennae. Desert Blister Beetle (Lytta magister) The desert blister beetle has reddish-orange head and black oval long body The desert blister beetle is a black bug with a red head, black and red legs, and filiform antennae. The large black and red beetle can measure between 0.6" and 1.3" (16 – 33 mm) and is common in California and the southwestern United States. The large beetles can also bite. The redheaded black blister beetle is commonly found in deserts, mainly feeding on brittlebush flowers. Like all blister beetles, the black and redheaded desert beetle exudes a yellowish, foul-smelling secretion that can cause a painful skin blister. Red and Black Bug Identification The desert blister beetle is easy to identify with its deep black body and shiny bright red head, red legs, and two antennae in a filiform shape. Cocklebur Weevil (Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus) The small cocklebur weevil has a small black head with long snout and black patterns on its red body The cocklebur weevil is a type of red and black bug with an identifiable black rounded snout, characteristic of all weevils. The red cocklebur weevil has an orange-red body, thorax, and a tiny black head. Identifiable black spots on its back contrast with its red-orange body. Red and black cocklebur weevils measure approximately 0.25" to 0.5" (6 – 13 mm) long. The tiny insects generally feed on cocklebur, ragweed, or thistle leaves. This species of red weevil, Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus, also goes by the name five-spotted billbug. Depending on the species, other types of red and black weevils can have more or fewer black dots on their red bodies. Red and Black Bug Identification The cocklebur weevil is easy to identify due to its dark orange to red body, black spots, black legs, a long black snout, and two geniculate antennae that look like they have joints. Bee Assassin Bug (Apiomerus crassipes) The black bee assassin is a flying bug with red markings on the sides of its body The bee assassin bug is a black bug with red markings along the sides of its abdomen. These dark-colored bugs have a triangular-shaped body, six black legs, and two thin, wiry antennae. Bee assassins are also flying bugs that go from plant to plant, hunting bees and wasps. Adult bee assassin bugs measure between 0.55" and 0.78" (14 – 20 mm) long. The black and red bugs are common throughout North America and are active from mid-spring until late fall. You will often find bee assassin bugs on pine trees. Red and Black Bug Identification The bee assassin bug is identified by its flattened body that is mostly black with reddish or orange margins, thick hairy legs, and thin antennae. Italian Striped Bug (Graphosoma italicum) The small Italian striped bug has a shield shaped body with alternating black and orange or red stripes The Italian striped bug is a striking black bug with orange-reddish stripes and a body in the shape of a shield. Also called the minstrel bug or harlequin bug, this small red and black striped bug has six black legs and thin, pointed antennae. The rounded bug measures between 0.31" and 0.47" (8 – 12 mm) long. There is no mistaking an Italian red and black striped bug if you find one in your garden. The bug can be found feeding under the umbrella-like flowers of plants in the family Apiaceae —parsley, carrot, celery, hemlock, and hogweed. The black and red stripes of the harlequin bug are a warning sign to predators. Red and Black Bug Identification The easily identifiable Italian striped bug is red with thick black stripes running longitudinally down its rounded, shield-shaped body. Two-Spotted Stink Bug (Cosmopepla conspicillaris) The two-spotted stink bug has a black shield shaped body with orange-red band and two black spots The two-spotted stink bug is a black bug with an orange-red band near its head and thin orange lines along its margins. The underside of this unusual shiny black bug is yellow with black stripes. The attractive black bug with its orange markings is a tiny bug that measures approximately 0.3" (8 mm) long. Other common names for the two-spotted stink bug refer to its unique red or orange speckled patterning. For example, it's called the happy bespectacled stink bug black bug. This refers to the red and black spectacle-like markings and the red or yellow semi-circle resembling a smile on its back. Red and Black Bug Identification The two-spotted stink bug is identified by its orange-red band that looks like a pair of colorful spectacles near its head. Other recognizable features of the stink bug are slender antennae, yellow markings on its belly, and a U-shaped bright marking on its back. Red and Black Ladybugs (Coccinellidae) The seven-spotted ladybird (Coccinella septempunctata) is common in Europe and was successfully introduced into states in the US Ladybugs are easily recognizable beetles due to their rounded red wing coverings with black spots. Red and black ladybugs measure between 0.04" and 0.4" (1 – 10 mm) long. The red bugs have wings and can swarm into buildings in the fall. Some types of ladybugs are yellow and black. Related reading: How to identify various types of ladybugs. Asian Lady Beetle (Harmonia axyridis) The Asian lady beetle is now becoming a pest in many countries The Asian lady beetle is an invasive species in North America in the ladybug family. The flying bugs can be red with black dots or black with red spots depending on the species. The small red and black adult beetles measure 0.2" to 0.3" (5 – 8 mm) long. Asian lady beetles look similar to native ladybugs but they bite and can cause allergic skin reactions. Black Clock Beetle (Pterostichus madidus) The black clock beetle has red legs with spines and black ridged body The black clock beetle is described as a black bug with red legs. Up close, pictures of the black beetle show its black and red legs have spines, and its shiny black abdomen is ridged. The black clock beetle measures 0.55" to 0.78" (14 – 20 mm) long and is found in gardens. Scarlet Lily Leaf Beetle (Lilioceris lilii) The scarlet lily leaf beetle is also called red lily beetle, or lily leaf beetle and is shiny red with black legs and antennae The scarlet lily beetle is a bright red leaf beetle with black head, legs and antennae that eats the leaves, stems and flowers of lilies and other plants from the family Liliaceae. Adult lily beetle measures about ¼–⅜ inch (6 to 9 mm) in length. Related articles: 15 Red and Black Bugs (Pictures) – Insect and Bug Identification was last modified: July 27th, 2023 by Jessica Nolan, Gardening Expert XFacebookLinkedInPinterestShareRed and black bugs are some of the most visually striking insects found in nature. These bugs often display bold colors that not only make them stand out but also serve as warning signals to predators. From beetles to wasps, there are countless species that boast this vivid color combination. Identifying red and black bugs can be essential for understanding their role in the ecosystem, whether they are beneficial predators or potential pests. In this article, we'll explore 54 fascinating red and black bug species, complete with identification tips and pictures to help you recognize them. Different Types of Red and Black Bugs Eastern Boxelder Bug The Eastern Boxelder Bug (Boisea trivittata) has a black body with red markings along the edges. This species feeds on the leaves, seeds, and fruits of boxelder and ash trees. Although not harmful to crops or trees, they can become a nuisance when they invade homes during colder months. Their populations are often left unchecked, as they have few natural predators due to their unpleasant taste. Western Boxelder Bug The Western Boxelder Bug (Boisea rubrolineata) is primarily black and gray with red stripes running along its elongated body. Native to the western U.S., this bug relies on boxelder trees, where both nymphs and adults feed on the seeds. During colder months, adults often seek shelter indoors, where they survive in a hibernation-like state. Their black and red-striped appearance is distinct, and their resilience allows them to overwinter in barns, homes, or garages. Red-shouldered Bug The Red-shouldered Bug (Jadera haematoloma) is predominantly black, with two short red stripes near the base of its wings. Native to the Americas, this bug is now also found in Asia. Known for feeding on balloon vine seeds, it uses its piercing mouthparts to access the seeds. The Red-shouldered Bug grows up to 13.5mm, making it larger than most ladybugs. Its black body often causes confusion with similar-looking species like the Boxelder Bug. Milkweed Assassin Bug The Milkweed Assassin Bug (Zelus longipes) is a red and black predator found across North and South America. It's an important biocontrol agent in agricultural fields, particularly corn crops, where it preys on caterpillars and adult moths. This bug has long legs and an elongated body, allowing it to efficiently hunt down caterpillars, which are its preferred prey due to their inability to fly. Southeastern U.S. corn fields often host large populations of this beneficial insect. False Milkweed Bug The False Milkweed Bug (Lygaeus turcicus) is often mistaken for other milkweed bugs due to its black body and red or yellow stripes. However, it feeds on the seeds of false sunflower rather than milkweed. Found in the Eastern U.S., this bug's distinct red or yellow stripes cover both its wings and head. While the name may cause confusion, the False Milkweed Bug is closely associated with flowers from the aster family, not milkweed. Twice-stabbed Stink Bug The Twice-stabbed Stink Bug (Cosmopepla lintneriana) is a shiny black bug with two red dots on its back and a red stripe behind its head. Growing up to 6.5mm, it's smaller than most stink bugs. This bug is primarily found on milk thistle but can also damage crops like oats and mint. Despite its small size, it plays a significant role in certain ecosystems by feeding on both plants and insects. White-crossed Seed Bug The White-crossed Seed Bug (Neacoryphus bicrucis) is a black and red bug identified by the white, X-shaped mark on its back. Native to North and South America, it is often seen in open fields, feeding on sunflower-daisy flowers. The bug's elongated oval body makes it easily recognizable, and it thrives in diverse habitats, including various elevations and regions across the U.S., as well as Asia and Oceania. Mediterranean Red Bug The Mediterranean Red Bug (Scantius aegyptius) is a migrating species in the U.S., primarily found in Southern California. These bugs, with their black and red bodies, feed on knotweed and travel in large groups when their food supply runs low. Although they can be seen in vast numbers, Mediterranean Red Bugs don't harm crops, focusing instead on weeds like knotweed. They migrate collectively, creating a striking spectacle. Florida Predatory Stink Bug The Florida Predatory Stink Bug (Euthyrhynchus floridanus) is a multicolored bug with a black base, orange spots, and green patches. This species, found primarily in Florida, is highly beneficial as it feeds on various crop pests, including caterpillars and grasshoppers. While typically carnivorous, the Florida Predatory Stink Bug can adapt to feed on non-pest insects when necessary, making it an important natural pest control agent in agriculture. Eastern Bloodsucking Conenose The Eastern Bloodsucking Conenose (Triatoma sanguisuga) is a large, 21mm bug that bites humans, particularly around the mouth, earning it the nickname "kissing bug." Known to suck blood, it can spread Chagas disease, although the risk is minimal in the U.S. This black and orange bug primarily feeds at night, and while its bite is painless, the potential for disease transmission has made it a concern in some regions. Charcoal Seed Bug The Charcoal Seed Bug (Melacoryphus lateralis) is a black and red species with distinct red stripes along its sides and behind its head. Found in the Western U.S., particularly in dry and desert regions, it sometimes displays gray coloring on its wings. These bugs feed on seeds and are commonly seen in scrubland habitats. Their unique coloring and habitat preferences distinguish them from other seed bugs. European Firebug The European Firebug (Pyrrhocoris apterus) is found in Europe, North America, and Asia. These black and red bugs often thrive on various tree species and are frequently mistaken for squash bugs due to their similar appearance. The body of the European Firebug is black with red vertical, diagonal, and horizontal stripes. Nymphs are especially easy to spot as they tend to congregate, living in colonies as a defensive strategy, making them less likely to be preyed upon. California Lady Beetle The California Lady Beetle (Coccinella californica) is native to California, particularly in its coastal regions. This lady beetle features a red elytra, sometimes with a rusty hue, and two small white spots near the base of its wings. Its thorax is black with additional small white dots, which makes the beetle mostly appear black and red. Known for being a predator of aphids, this species plays an important role in pest control. Shiny Flea Beetle The Shiny Flea Beetle (Asphaera lustrans) is primarily found in southern U.S. states like Arizona and Florida. Its red head and thorax contrast with its black elytra. This beetle is particularly drawn to mint plants, especially wild mint such as skullcap. It can often be seen year-round in its native habitat and is recognized by its red color pattern, which is inverse to that of the California Lady Beetle. Master Blister Beetle The Master Blister Beetle (Lytta magister) is known for its red upper body and black wings. Found in desert areas like the Mojave Desert, its larvae feed on bee nests, particularly on bee provisions. Adult beetles, however, switch to feeding on flowers, such as brittlebush. The Master Blister Beetle plays a role in ecosystems by feeding on insects during its larval stage, though it can also harm bee populations. Asian Lady Beetle The Asian Lady Beetle (Harmonia axyridis) is recognized by its domed, oval body, ranging between 5.5 to 8.5mm. It often displays black elytra with up to 22 black spots. Originally introduced in the U.S. in 1916 to control aphid populations, it has since spread across the country. Though beneficial in pest control, it can become a household nuisance, especially in colder months when they seek shelter indoors. Seven-spotted Lady Beetle The Seven-spotted Lady Beetle (Coccinella septempunctata) is larger than its Asian counterpart, reaching up to 12.5mm. Its red elytra is marked with seven distinctive black spots. A natural predator, it helps control aphid populations. This species protects itself from predators by secreting a foul-tasting liquid and may play dead to avoid danger. Originally native to Europe, it is now widespread across North America. Spotted Lanternfly The Spotted Lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) is a notorious pest, identified by its spotted wings. As it matures, its hind wings turn red, while the upper wings remain covered in black spots. Accidentally introduced from China, this species has become a major agricultural pest in the U.S., particularly in Pennsylvania. Due to its devastating impact on crops, strict quarantines have been enforced to control its spread. Large Milkweed Bug The Large Milkweed Bug (Oncopeltus fasciatus) is a black and red species, growing up to 12mm. Found in North and Central America, it feeds primarily on milkweed plants. Northern populations migrate south, whereas southern ones remain in place. Despite their striking appearance, these bugs are not pests, as they only consume milkweed sap, playing a role in maintaining the plant's ecological balance. Convergent Lady Beetle Convergent Lady Beetles (Hippodamia convergens) are small predatory beetles with red elytra and black spots, known for their role in aphid control. They have a black head with white markings. Common across the U.S., these beetles spend much of their year in dormancy, emerging in the spring to hunt in large groups. Their role in agriculture is significant, helping to reduce the need for chemical pesticides. Red Milkweed Beetle The Red Milkweed Beetle (Tetraopes tetrophthalmus) is distinguished by its bright red and black body. As a herbivore, it feeds on milkweed plants and drinks sap by opening plant veins. These beetles are also toxic to predators due to the toxins absorbed from milkweed. Unlike other similar species, Red Milkweed Beetles produce specific sounds to communicate, which makes them easier to identify. Swift Feather-legged Fly The Swift Feather-legged Fly (Trichopoda pennipes) can have red or black and orange coloration. Native to the U.S., it feeds on plants, while its larvae act as parasitoids, feeding on bugs like squash bugs. Adults typically consume nectar and are often found near their larvae's host plants. They lay their eggs on other insects, especially squash and stink bugs, making them a natural biological control agent. Shiny Acrobat Ant The Shiny Acrobat Ant (Crematogaster laeviuscula) is known for its unique ability to eat wasps. These ants are often found both indoors and outdoors, building nests in dark areas, including inside walls or near homes. They also make their nests in trees and can grow into large colonies. This species is common across various countries, and its diet includes both insects and plant matter, making it an adaptable and resourceful insect. Twice-Stabbed Lady Beetle The Twice-Stabbed Lady Beetle (Chilocorus stigma) is distinguished by its black body with two red dots, which resemble stab marks. These small but predatory beetles are found in regions such as Florida, where they feed on aphids, mealybugs, and other invasive insects. Their role as natural predators makes them valuable in pest control, often reducing the need for pesticides. These beetles also overwinter in the ground, often returning to the same area the following year. Two-lined Leatherwing The Two-lined Leatherwing (Atalantycha bilineata) is another woodland species that plays an important role in pollination. With gray to brown wings and a brownish-red underside, this insect helps spread pollen as it feeds on other insects that consume pollen. Its name is derived from its soft, leather-like wings. Though beneficial, these bugs are more interested in preying on insects than the pollen itself. Pigeon Horntail The Pigeon Horntail (Tremex columba) is a large insect that can reach up to 2 inches in length, with red-brown, black, and yellow coloring. This species lays its eggs in wood, particularly softwood, where the larvae and pupae continue to feed on the wood. Pigeon Horntails are often found in indoor settings, as well as outdoors, and are especially prevalent around decaying wood. End Band Net-winged Beetle The End Band Net-winged Beetle (Calopteron terminale) is known for its deep wing grooves and long, thick black antennae. Found in the Northeastern U.S., this red and black or red and orange beetle lays its eggs in dead trees or under tree bark. Like the Pigeon Horntail, it feeds on insects attracted to decaying trees, helping to break down dead wood in forest ecosystems. Pale-bordered Field Cockroach The Pale-bordered Field Cockroach (Pseudomops septentrionalis) is an outdoor species that feeds on various types of plants. These cockroaches have elongated bodies, around 0.5 inches in length. Their wings are black, with a brown head and off-white margins. The legs and antennae are completely black. Unlike other roach species, these bugs do not infest homes but instead live and feed outdoors. Pleasing Fungus Beetle The Pleasing Fungus Beetle (Megalodacne heros) is commonly found on trees such as maple, redbud, and water oak. These beetles feed on fungi growing on these trees and lay their eggs in areas where fungus thrives. Pleasing Fungus Beetles are nocturnal and tend to hide under tree bark, making them difficult to spot. While they feed on fungi, they only affect trees that are already in poor health. Small Milkweed Bug The Small Milkweed Bug (Lygaeus kalmii) is initially all red but develops a red and black or orange and black pattern as it matures. While they mainly feed on milkweed, they can turn carnivorous in the absence of their preferred plant. Non-migratory, these bugs are common throughout North America, mating year-round. Their adaptable diet and ability to live in diverse environments make them a widespread species. Common Eastern Firefly The Common Eastern Firefly (Photinus pyralis) is known for its glowing abdomen, which emits light at night. Its black body is highlighted by orange-red markings on the head and wings. Only males can fly, and they use their glow to attract mates. This species is often seen flying in groups at night, creating an enchanting spectacle in many parts of eastern North America. Spotted Pink Ladybeetle The Spotted Pink Ladybeetle (Coleomegilla maculata) is recognized by its pink, red, or yellow body with six black spots on each wing. Unlike other ladybeetles, this species prefers crops like soybean and alfalfa where aphids thrive. Known for their beneficial role in controlling aphid populations, these beetles are often left untreated by farmers, allowing them to naturally manage crop pests. Cocklebur Weevil The Cocklebur Weevil (Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus) has a red body with black dots and feeds primarily on cocklebur stems, ragweed, and roots. This small weevil uses its elongated snout to bore into plant stems or roots, often stunting the growth of sunflower-related plants. It is rarely larger than 0.5 inches and can damage a wide variety of plants through its feeding habits. Eurasian Red-and-black Melyrid The Eurasian Red-and-black Melyrid (Anthocomus equestris) is a beneficial bug often found indoors or near crops. This species feeds on pests and is most common in Virginia, although it has spread across various states. Its body is black with red markings, including spiny antennae. The bug's colors can range from pure red and black to rust-red and black, depending on the region. Red-banded Fungus Beetle The Red-banded Fungus Beetle (Megalodacne fasciata) is native to North America and easily identified by its shiny black body with red bands. It feeds on both plant leaves and fungus-affected vegetation, though its impact on crops is minimal. The bug's black head and red-banded body make it a visually striking species. While not a harmful pest, it can occasionally be found indoors. Two-lined Spittlebug The Two-lined Spittlebug (Prosapia bicincta) is native to the U.S. and parts of Central America. With a black body and either red or orange bands on its wings, this bug feeds on different plants at various stages of its life cycle. Nymphs prefer grasses and can invade lawns, while adults feed on small trees such as holly and eastern redbud. The Two-lined Spittlebug has a distinctive feeding pattern depending on its developmental stage. Spotless Lady Beetle The Spotless Lady Beetle (Cycloneda sanguinea) is a red-brown ladybug found in southern U.S. regions and across Central and South America. Its smooth, red dome-shaped elytra and black-and-white head make it easily recognizable. Predatory in nature, it feeds on aphids and is known for its role in controlling aphid populations on plants like milkweed. Both adult and larval stages are effective predators, making it a valuable species in natural pest control. Harlequin Bug The Harlequin Bug (Murgantia histrionica) is a known pest of cabbages and other related plants. Its black body with red stripes and black spots gives it a poisonous appearance, which helps deter predators. Found in warm areas of North America, this species has a unique mating strategy involving high male competition. Males often migrate to new areas to find females with fewer competing males. The Harlequin Bug is particularly problematic for crops in the cabbage family. Common Lovebug The Common Lovebug (Plecia nearctica) is a well-known black and red bug found throughout North America. It is most famous for being a nuisance to drivers, as it tends to be attracted to vehicle lights during its two mating flights (three in Florida). What sets this species apart is its mating behavior, where male and female Lovebugs remain attached for up to several days, even while flying. These bugs are not harmful and can be considered mildly beneficial due to their larvae's role in breaking down decaying plant matter. Reticulated Net-winged Beetle The Reticulated Net-winged Beetle (Calopteron reticulatum) is recognized by its orange or red bands on ridged wings. This beetle is primarily active during early mornings and evenings, where it feeds on decaying plant matter. Found near forests and open woodland areas, it thrives on moist dead plants. The beetle's females lay their eggs on decaying trees, continuing their lifecycle in areas rich in decomposing organic material. Squash Vine Borer Moth The Squash Vine Borer Moth (Melittia cucurbitae) is often mistaken for a bee or wasp due to its black and red coloring. It is a known pest for crops like zucchini and squash. The larvae of this species bore into plant stems, causing significant damage that can kill the plant. Effective pest control measures, such as applying pesticides, are typically required to protect crops from this moth during its active season. Cinnabar Moth The Cinnabar Moth (Tyria jacobaeae) is notable for its striking black and red body, with alternating triangular shapes on its wings. While the adults feed on pollen, the larvae are known to feed on plants like ragwort and may even resort to cannibalism. This behavior results in a high mortality rate among larvae. Those that survive grow into adults that continue feeding on plants for nectar. Dark Paper Wasp The Dark Paper Wasp (Polistes fuscatus) has a striking mix of red-brown, black, and yellow colors. This social wasp is found throughout North America in wooded areas, where it uses wood to construct its nests. These colonies are led by a dominant queen, but other female wasps, known as foundresses, work together with the queen to maintain the nest. The Dark Paper Wasp plays a key role in ecosystems by feeding on pests and plant matter. Great Golden Digger Wasp The Great Golden Digger Wasp (Sphex ichneumoneus) is one of the most common red and black wasps in the U.S. While its body is mostly red and black, it may also display yellow, white, or off-white coloring. This species is known for digging underground nests where females lay their eggs. The larvae feed on paralyzed insects, typically placed in the nests by adult females. Clusters of these nests are often found in sandy or loose soil environments. Common Eastern Velvet Ant The Common Eastern Velvet Ant (Dasymutilla occidentalis) is a strikingly red and black furry insect, commonly found in southern parts of North America. Known for its painful sting, this ant-like wasp has earned the nickname "cow killer" due to myths about its sting's potency. The velvet ant is parasitic, laying its eggs in wasp nests and killing the host egg to ensure its larvae's survival. Pacific Velvet Ant The Pacific Velvet Ant (Dasymutilla aureola) is another parasitic species resembling ants. It cannot fly and moves only on the ground. Found in coastal California, it has a brown or reddish-brown body and black markings. Known for its painful sting, the Pacific Velvet Ant is commonly seen in arid environments where it feeds on plants. Its resemblance to ants is a form of mimicry, providing it some protection from predators. XFacebookLinkedInPinterestShare Red and black bugs can be found crawling in your garden, and they can also invade your home. Identifying insects with a red and black body can help know how to get rid of them and if they are dangerous. The most common red and black insects in yards and houses in spring are boxelder bugs and red-shouldered bugs. The annoying insects can become a nuisance indoors even though they are generally harmless. Seeing bugs with red and black coloring can create a sense of panic. For example, the oval insect's black body and bright red or orange dots or stripes could appear dangerous due to warning red colors. Or red insects that have black markings may have a menacing appearance. Some red and black bugs like the boxelder bug can also inflict an irritating bite. Many people refer to all kinds of red and black pests as bugs. However, not all colorful insects in your house or garden are bugs in the scientific sense. True bugs are insects that belong to the order Hemiptera. The six-legged insects have two antennae and piercing mouthparts that allow the red and black bugs to bite into plant tissue to suck its juices. This article refers to all types of red and black insects or arthropods as bugs, even though some are not bugs in the true sense. Descriptions and pictures of black bugs with red markings will help identify the creeping crawly you have discovered in your house or yard. How to Identify Red and Black Bugs and Insects Apart from the red and black coloring, you can identify a bug or insect by its six legs, two antennae, and if it has wings or not. Red and black bug identification is also possible by observing the insect's size, behavior, habitat, and distinguishing markings. Some black and red bugs are so tiny you need a magnifying glass to identify them correctly. For example, flying red and black bugs like boxelder bugs (Boisea trivittata) and red-shouldered bugs (Jadera haematoloma) look similar. However, boxelders have more prominent red stripes on their black body. But, both types of bugs are easy to distinguish from red and black beetles that have rounded hard shells and wings. Types of Red and Black Bugs (with Pictures) – Identification Guide Let's look in more detail at 15 types of common bugs that can be identified by their red and black colors. Boxelder Bug (Boisea trivittata) Boxelder bugs have a flat black body with orange-red markings The boxelder bug is a common black and red flying bug with reddish or orange lines or markings on a flattened, elongated oval body. Adult winged boxelder bugs measure 0.5" (13 mm) long. Boxelder bugs are active from spring through fall and are found on maples, boxelder trees, ash trees, and strawberries. Like all insects, black and orange boxelder bugs have six legs and two antennae. Adult females lay brightly colored red eggs on host plants. Boxelder nymphs are identified by their bright red bodies and black heads. As the black and orange bugs mature, they become dark gray and develop dark orange stripes. Adult and nymph boxelder bugs You may get a lot of boxelder bugs in your home if there is a food source nearby. These small annoying pests enter buildings in summer through open windows, doors, or cracks in the siding or foundation. You may see masses of black and red bugs near cracks as they clamber to get into a house. The red and black winged boxelder bugs are also excellent fliers and may come from nearby infested boxelder trees. Black and red boxelder bugs can bite, but it's rare they bite humans. They are more of a nuisance pest in the home, especially if you have a large infestation. Because the bugs are inactive when it's cold, turning on the heating may cause them to become active and start crawling throughout your house. The best way to get rid of boxelder bugs is to prevent them from getting into your home. For example, window or door screens can stop the red and black bug flying into your home. Also, caulking cracks around windows and in walls will help keep all insects out. Even though boxelder bugs are classified as "scentless plant bugs," they emit a pungent, foul-smelling odor when crushed. If you see groups of red and black bugs on the sides of your house, you can spray them with insecticidal soap or hot soapy water to dislodge and kill them. Red and Black Bug Identification The boxelder bug is identified by its dark gray or black body, with orange-red markings on its wings and back. Red-Shouldered Bug (Jadera haematoloma) Red-shouldered bugs have a black oval flat body with red markings and red eyes Also called the soapberry bug, the red-shouldered bug is a black insect with bright red markings on its shoulders and wing edges. The grayish-black bug also has identifiable bright red eyes. The black and red bugs measure around 0.5" (13 mm) long and have distinctive flattened oval bodies. Red-shouldered bug nymphs have a bright red body and a black head. Like boxelder nymphs, they have black heads, dark brown or black legs, and antennae. Red-shouldered bug adult and nymph Red-shouldered bugs are common in Florida gardens. The short-winged black and red bugs are primarily found on host trees feeding on leaves and stems. However, you will also find the bugs on lawns where they congregate in masses to feed on seeds fallen from trees. Red-shouldered bugs look like boxelder bugs and are classed as scentless plant bugs. The way to tell the bugs apart is by the red markings. Jadera haematoloma is mostly a dark gray or black color with only red shoulders and a thin red stripe running along each edge. Crushing red-shoulder bugs can leave a reddish stain on clothing. Red and Black Bug Identification To identify a red-shouldered bug, look for its elongated oval body with vibrant red colors on its shoulders and body edges. Milkweed Assassin Bug (Zelus longipes) Milkweed assassin bug can be identified by its distinctive red and black colored body, very long antennae and legs The milkweed assassin bug is identified by its bright red body with black patterns, six long black legs, and pair of black wings. In addition, milkweed assassin bugs have a slender body with an elongated oval abdomen, and a long sucking mouthpart. Up close, pictures of these red and black bugs show they have white markings on the underside of the abdomen. Milkweed assassin nymph Milkweed assassin bugs measure approximately 0.5" (20 mm) long. The red and black bugs are beneficial insects that prey on caterpillars, flies, mosquitoes, and destructive beetles. The slender bugs are not aggressive, but they can inflict a painful bite if you trap them. Red and Black Bug Identification The milkweed assassin bug has an easily-identifiable bright-red and black pattern, slender body with jet black hairy legs, two long black antennae, and a long piercing snout-like mouthpiece. Firebug (Pyrrhocoris apterus) Firebugs can be easily identified by their red body with black round spots and triangular markings The firebug is a small red bug with black round spots and triangular markings on its back. The striking bug is easy to recognize in gardens due to its distinctive red and black coloration. The small red and black bug measures 0.4" (10 mm) long and can be found feeding on lime trees and mallow trees. Red and black firebugs are not dangerous because they don't bite humans or harm trees. However, hordes of creeping crawlies in homes can become a nuisance. Red firebugs invade homes in the fall to overwinter in warmer places. If you crush them, red firebugs cause a nasty stench, and the smell may attract other insects. Additionally, the red color can leave a stain on clothing and carpets. If you find them in your home, vacuuming them is usually the best solution to get rid of them. Red and Black Bug Identification The firebug has an easily identifiable red oval body with two striking black dots and two black triangles on its back. In addition, the red bug has black legs and two black antennae. Mediterranean Red Bug (Scantius aegyptius) The Mediterranean red bug is very similar to firebug and both belong to the family Pyrrhocoridae, but the firebug has 2 extra tiny black dots The Mediterranean red bug is a brightly colored insect with an orange-red body and striking black markings. This seed-feeding red bug is difficult to tell apart from the firebug. The Mediterranean red bug has two black spots and a black triangular hourglass marking contrasting with the reddish-orange color on its back. The Mediterranean red bug measures 0.27" to 0.35" (7 – 9 mm), and the invasive black and red bug is common in California. The immature bugs are generally entirely red and develop black spots as they mature. Red and Black Bug Identification To identify the Mediterranean red bug, look for two black spots and a large black hourglass marking on a red-orange elongated oval body. Red and Black Blister Beetle (Meloidae) The red and black blister beetle (Mylabris quadripunctata) has a black head and red body with black round spots Some species of blister beetles are red insects with black spots covered in fine hairs. For example, the Mylabris quadripunctata beetle has a slender, bright red body with two rows of black dots and black markings at its tail. In addition, the red beetle has a small round black thorax and a small black head. Red and black blister beetles measure 0.4" to 0.8" (10 – 20 mm) long. They usually feed on insects and insect eggs and may also feed on flowers and leaves, causing some damage. Blister beetles get their name from the poisonous liquid contained in their bodies. This can cause skin irritation and blistering if you squash one of them and the secretion gets on your skin. Related reading: How to identify types of beetles. Red and Black Bug Identification Red and black blister beetles have bright red bodies with several black spots, six black legs, and two clubbed antennae. Desert Blister Beetle (Lytta magister) The desert blister beetle has reddish-orange head and black oval long body The desert blister beetle is a black bug with a red head, black and red legs, and filiform antennae. The large black and red beetle can measure between 0.6" and 1.3" (16 – 33 mm) and is common in California and the southwestern United States. The large beetles can also bite. The redheaded black blister beetle is commonly found in deserts, mainly feeding on brittlebush flowers. Like all blister beetles, the black and redheaded desert beetle exudes a yellowish, foul-smelling secretion that can cause a painful skin blister. Red and Black Bug Identification The desert blister beetle is easy to identify with its deep black body and shiny bright red head, red legs, and two antennae in a filiform shape. Cocklebur Weevil (Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus) The small cocklebur weevil has a small black head with long snout and black patterns on its red body The cocklebur weevil is a type of red and black bug with an identifiable black rounded snout, characteristic of all weevils. The red cocklebur weevil has an orange-red body, thorax, and a tiny black head. Identifiable black spots on its back contrast with its red-orange body. Red and black cocklebur weevils measure approximately 0.25" to 0.5" (6 – 13 mm) long. The tiny insects generally feed on cocklebur, ragweed, or thistle leaves. This species of red weevil, Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus, also goes by the name five-spotted billbug. Depending on the species, other types of red and black weevils can have more or fewer black dots on their red bodies. Red and Black Bug Identification The cocklebur weevil is easy to identify due to its dark orange to red body, black spots, black legs, a long black snout, and two geniculate antennae that look like they have joints. Bee Assassin Bug (Apiomerus crassipes) The black bee assassin is a flying bug with red markings on the sides of its body The bee assassin bug is a black bug with red markings along the sides of its abdomen. These dark-colored bugs have a triangular-shaped body, six black legs, and two thin, wiry antennae. Bee assassins are also flying bugs that go from plant to plant, hunting bees and wasps. Adult bee assassin bugs measure between 0.55" and 0.78" (14 – 20 mm) long. The black and red bugs are common throughout North America and are active from mid-spring until late fall. You will often find bee assassin bugs on pine trees. Red and Black Bug Identification The bee assassin bug is identified by its flattened body that is mostly black with reddish or orange margins, thick hairy legs, and thin antennae. Italian Striped Bug (Graphosoma italicum) The small Italian striped bug has a shield shaped body with alternating black and orange or red stripes The Italian striped bug is a striking black bug with orange-reddish stripes and a body in the shape of a shield. Also called the minstrel bug or harlequin bug, this small red and black striped bug has six black legs and thin, pointed antennae. The rounded bug measures between 0.31" and 0.47" (8 – 12 mm) long. There is no mistaking an Italian red and black striped bug if you find one in your garden. The bug can be found feeding under the umbrella-like flowers of plants in the family Apiaceae —parsley, carrot, celery, hemlock, and hogweed. The black and red stripes of the harlequin bug are a warning sign to predators. Red and Black Bug Identification The easily identifiable Italian striped bug is red with thick black stripes running longitudinally down its rounded, shield-shaped body. Two-Spotted Stink Bug (Cosmopepla conspicillaris) The two-spotted stink bug has a black shield shaped body with orange-red band and two black spots The two-spotted stink bug is a black bug with an orange-red band near its head and thin orange lines along its margins. The underside of this unusual shiny black bug is yellow with black stripes. The attractive black bug with its orange markings is a tiny bug that measures approximately 0.3" (8 mm) long. Other common names for the two-spotted stink bug refer to its unique red or orange speckled patterning. For example, it's called the happy bespectacled stink bug black bug. This refers to the red and black spectacle-like markings and the red or yellow semi-circle resembling a smile on its back. Red and Black Bug Identification The two-spotted stink bug is identified by its orange-red band that looks like a pair of colorful spectacles near its head. Other recognizable features of the stink bug are slender antennae, yellow markings on its belly, and a U-shaped bright marking on its back. Red and Black Ladybugs (Coccinellidae) The seven-spotted ladybird (Coccinella septempunctata) is common in Europe and was successfully introduced into states in the US Ladybugs are easily recognizable beetles due to their rounded red wing coverings with black spots. Red and black ladybugs measure between 0.04" and 0.4" (1 – 10 mm) long. The red bugs have wings and can swarm into buildings in the fall. Some types of ladybugs are yellow and black. Related reading: How to identify various types of ladybugs. Asian Lady Beetle (Harmonia axyridis) The Asian lady beetle is now becoming a pest in many countries The Asian lady beetle is an invasive species in North America in the ladybug family. The flying bugs can be red with black dots or black with red spots depending on the species. The small red and black adult beetles measure 0.2" to 0.3" (5 – 8 mm) long. Asian lady beetles look similar to native ladybugs but they bite and can cause allergic skin reactions. Black Clock Beetle (Pterostichus madidus) The black clock beetle has red legs with spines and black ridged body The black clock beetle is described as a black bug with red legs. Up close, pictures of the black beetle show its black and red legs have spines, and its shiny black abdomen is ridged. The black clock beetle measures 0.55" to 0.78" (14 – 20 mm) long and is found in gardens. Scarlet Lily Leaf Beetle (Lilioceris lilii) The scarlet lily leaf beetle is also called red lily beetle, or lily leaf beetle and is shiny red with black legs and antennae The scarlet lily beetle is a bright red leaf beetle with black head, legs and antennae that eats the leaves, stems and flowers of lilies and other plants from the family Liliaceae. Adult lily beetle measures about ¼–⅜ inch (6 to 9 mm) in length. Related articles: 15 Red and Black Bugs (Pictures) – Insect and Bug Identification was last modified: July 27th, 2023 by Jessica Nolan, Gardening Expert Red and black bug identification can get tricky sometimes if you are less informed about them. But what choice do these small insects have? Their many different colors act as their way of defense. Their bright or dark colors come in handy as they try to scare their predators away. If you happen to walk around your garden any time of the day or night, you will get surprised by the number of black and red bugs you will see. Some of them are beneficial while others are harmful to both humans and plants. Various Types of Red and Black Bugs Probably, you have an idea of what red and black bugs are because you often see around your backyard. Below is detailed information on most red and black bugs. 1. Boxelder bug Boxelder bugs are scientifically known as Boisea trivittatus. They are found in two types which are denoted by the place where they are found: western Boxelder bug and eastern boxelder bug. If you notice a bug with a red stripe across its pronotum and about half inch body length, then you are looking at a boxelder bug. For the eastern boxelder bug, you will mostly notice them invading a home during the fall or in large numbers gathered somewhere to bask, maybe on a sunny wall of your house. They are known to feed on sap from flowers, seeds, and leaves of trees that host them. Additionally, they also feed on maples. 2. Milkweed bug Lygaeus kalmii is the scientific name for the milkweed bug. A full-grown milkweed bug measures about 12 mm long. On their back, they have a reddish-orange mark which mimics the letter "X." Milkweed bugs are known to feed on seeds. However, researchers working researching on red and black bug identification say some milkweed bugs feed on flowers, prey on arthropods and also scavenge on other dead insects. 3. Milkweed leaf beetle Milkweed leaf beetles are called Labidomera clivicollis scientifically. Their name emerged from the fact that they heavily feed on milkweed leaves. Some blackish color covers most of their body although they have orange strips as well. During the summer season, you will notice most adults and larvae of the milkweed leaf beetle type feeding on leaves. Female milkweed leaf beetles take few days to start laying eggs. If you do not control them in time, they will feed on your plants for the whole season before taking refuge as they run away from winter weather. 4. Milkweed tiger moth Milkweed tiger moths are insects in a larvae stage. They are caterpillars in nature and do feed on milkweed leaves. From milkweed plants, these milkweed tiger moths get cardiac glycoside which they retain and use in their adult stage. Milkweed tiger moths have orange and black colors which they use to scare away their predators. At night, bats which are predators use sound to locate them. 5. Cotton stainer bug While thinking about red and black bug identification, you will come across plant pets. Among the most dangerous ones, plant pet is the cotton stainer bug (Dysdercus suturellus). Cotton stainer bugs are disastrous to cotton seeds and cotton balls. Before a pesticide was invented, the browning and yellowish strain they left on cotton rolls made the rolls undesirable. This caused a lot of losses to cotton farmers and industries. Both adult and nymphs feed on cotton seeds. But their destructive nature is not restricted to cotton alone; they are catastrophic to plants as varied as oranges or hibiscus plants. 6. Two-spotted stink bug Among true red and black bugs, stink bugs take the top position. They are characterized by sucking mouths which they use for piercing the kind of food they feed on. But not all stink bugs feed on plants; others are predators which feed on other insects, a characteristic that makes them beneficial to your garden. Two-spotted stink bug, scientifically known as Perillus bioculatus, is the most common. Two black spots behind two-spotted stink bug heads are their main characteristic. But they are not always black and red, only the two spots remain constant. They are among the beneficial stink bugs you will find in your backyard or garden. They belong to the Pentatomidae insect family. 7. Firebug Firebugs (Pyrrhocoris apterus) are non-native insects to the US but mostly found there. Due to their attractive colors which make good looking striking marks, you cannot fail to notice them, especially when mating. Their mating season makes them very aggressive thus easily noticeable. Firebugs are small red and black insects measuring around 10 mm. They have one distinctive feature which is a black triangle and two distinct black looking spots with a red background. 8. Bee assassin bug Bee assassin bug (Apiomerus crassipes) can be termed as a beneficial insect and the opposite of a threat. Bee assassins are useful to you since they are predators and will feed on any arthropod that land on your plants and flowers. On the contrary, it feeds on

honey bees and other pollination facilitating insects. They use their forward legs which have sticky hair to grasp any prey that comes within their reach. There are different species of bee assassins, a characteristic mostly noticed by their body size. Most have a length of 12 mm while other 20 mm. What is constant about all bee assassin bugs is the black and red marking although others can look yellowish. 9. Scarlet plant bug Scarlet plant bugs (genus Lopidea) belongs to the plant bug family. There are several scarlet bugs which are named according to the plant they feed. Scarlet bugs are a red, orange and black bug measuring about 5-7 mm in length. They are mostly noticed due to their black centers and bright scarlet on their margins. There are 90 species of scarlet plant bugs around the world while 47 species are found in Canada and USA. Final Thoughts People mostly fear black and red insect, but that does not mean all of them are harmful. Sometimes it is only fear that does affect people. When dealing with this insect, first take the time and study their markings, characteristics and what they feed on. Such info will help you know whether to get rid of them or let them be in your backyard or garden. Red and black bugs can be found crawling in your garden, and they can also invade your home. Identifying insects with a red and black body can help know how to get rid of them and if they are dangerous. The most common red and black insects in yards and houses in spring are boxelder bugs and red-shouldered bugs. The annoying insects can become a nuisance indoors even though they are generally harmless. Seeing bugs with red and black coloring can create a sense of panic. For example, the oval insect's black body and bright red or orange dots or stripes could appear dangerous due to warning red colors. Or red insects that have black markings may have a menacing appearance. Some red and black bugs like the boxelder bug can also inflict an irritating bite. Many people refer to all kinds of red and black pests as bugs. However, not all colorful insects in your house or garden are bugs in the scientific sense. True bugs are insects that belong to the order Hemiptera. The six-legged insects have two antennae and piercing mouthparts that allow the red and black bugs to bite into plant tissue to suck its juices. This article refers to all types of red and black insects or arthropods as bugs, even though some are not bugs in the true sense. Descriptions and pictures of black bugs with red markings will help identify the creeping crawly you have discovered in your house or yard. How to Identify Red and Black Bugs and Insects Apart from the red and black coloring, you can identify a bug or insect by its six legs, two antennae, and if it has wings or not. Red and black bug identification is also possible by observing the insect's size, behavior, habitat, and distinguishing markings. Some black and red bugs are so tiny you need a magnifying glass to identify them correctly. For example, flying red and black bugs like boxelder bugs (Boisea trivittata) and red-shouldered bugs (Jadera haematoloma) look similar. However, boxelders have more prominent red stripes on their black body. But, both types of bugs are easy to distinguish from red and black beetles that have rounded hard shells and wings. Types of Red and Black Bugs (with Pictures) – Identification Guide Let's look in more detail at 15 types of common bugs that can be identified by their red and black colors. Boxelder Bug (Boisea trivittata) Boxelder bugs have a flat black body with orange-red markings The boxelder bug is a common black and red flying bug with reddish or orange lines or markings on a flattened, elongated oval body. Adult winged boxelder bugs measure 0.5” (13 mm) long. Boxelder bugs are active from spring through fall and are found on maples, boxelder trees, ash trees, and strawberries. Like all insects, black and orange boxelder bugs have six legs and two antennae. Adult females lay brightly colored red eggs on host plants. Boxelder nymphs are identified by their bright red bodies and black heads. As the black and orange bugs mature, they become dark gray and develop dark orange stripes. Adult and nymph boxelder bugs You may get a lot of boxelder bugs in your home if there is a food source nearby. These small annoying pests enter buildings in summer through open windows, doors, or cracks in the siding or foundation. You may see masses of black and red bugs near cracks as they clamber to get into a house. The red and black winged boxelder bugs are also excellent fliers and may come from nearby infested boxelder trees. Black and red boxelder bugs can bite, but it's rare they bite humans. They are more of a nuisance pest in the home, especially if you have a large infestation. Because the bugs are inactive when it's cold, turning on the heating may cause them to become active and start crawling throughout your house. The best way to get rid of boxelder bugs is to prevent them from getting into your home. For example, window or door screens can stop the red and black bug flying into your home. Also, caulking cracks around windows and in walls will help keep all insects out. Even though boxelder bugs are classified as “scentless plant bugs,” they emit a pungent, foul-smelling odor when crushed. If you see groups of red and black bugs on the sides of your house, you can spray them with insecticidal soap or hot soapy water to dislodge and kill them. Red and Black Bug Identification The boxelder bug is identified by its dark gray or black body, with orange-red markings on its wings and back. Red-Shouldered Bug (Jadera haematoloma) Red-shouldered bugs have a black oval flat body with red markings and red eyes Also called the soapberry bug, the red-shouldered bug is a black insect with bright red markings on its shoulders and wing edges. The grayish-black bug also has identifiable bright red eyes. The black and red bugs measure around 0.5” (13 mm) long and have distinctive flattened oval bodies. Red-shouldered bug nymphs have a bright red body and a black head. Like boxelder nymphs, they have black heads, dark brown or black legs, and antennae. Red-shouldered bug adult and nymph Red-shouldered bugs are common in Florida gardens. The short-winged black and red bugs are primarily found on host trees feeding on leaves and stems. However, you will also find the bugs on lawns where they congregate in masses to feed on seeds fallen from trees. Red-shouldered bugs look like boxelder bugs and are classed as scentless plant bugs. The way to tell the bugs apart is by the red markings. Jadera haematoloma is mostly a dark gray or black color with only red shoulders and a thin red stripe running along each edge. Crushing red-shoulder bugs can leave a reddish stain on clothing. Red and Black Bug Identification To identify a red-shouldered bug, look for its elongated oval body with vibrant red colors on its shoulders and body edges. Milkweed Assassin Bug (Zelus longipes) Milkweed assassin bug can be identified by its distinctive red and black colored body, very long antennae and legs The milkweed assassin bug is identified by its bright red body with black patterns, six long black legs, and pair of black wings. In addition, milkweed assassin bugs have a slender body with an elongated oval abdomen, and a long sucking mouthpart. Up close, pictures of these red and black bugs show they have white markings on the underside of the abdomen. Milkweed assassin nymph Milkweed assassin bugs measure approximately 0.5” (20 mm) long. The red and black bugs are beneficial insects that prey on caterpillars, flies, mosquitoes, and destructive beetles. The slender bugs are not aggressive, but they can inflict a painful bite if you trap them. Red and Black Bug Identification The milkweed assassin bug has an easily-identifiable bright-red and black pattern, slender body with jet black hairy legs, two long black antennae, and a long piercing snout-like mouthpiece. Firebug (Pyrrhocoris apterus) Firebugs can be easily identified by their red body with black round spots and triangular markings The firebug is a small red bug with black round spots and triangular markings on its back. The striking bug is easy to recognize in gardens due to its distinctive red and black coloration. The small red and black bug measures 0.4” (10 mm) long and can be found feeding on lime trees and mallow trees. Red and black firebugs are not dangerous because they don't bite humans or harm trees. However, hordes of creeping crawlies in homes can become a nuisance. Red firebugs invade homes in the fall to overwinter in warmer places. If you crush them, red firebugs cause a nasty stench, and the smell may attract other insects. Additionally, the red color can leave a stain on clothing and carpets. If you find them in your home, vacuuming them is usually the best solution to get rid of them. Red and Black Bug Identification The firebug has an easily identifiable red oval body with two striking black dots and two black triangles on its back. In addition, the red bug has black legs and two black antennae. Mediterranean Red Bug (Scantius aegyptius) The Mediterranean red bug is very similar to firebug and both belong to the family Pyrrhocoridae, but the firebug has 2 extra tiny black dots The Mediterranean red bug is a brightly colored insect with an orange-red body and striking black markings. This seed-feeding red bug is difficult to tell apart from the firebug. The Mediterranean red bug has two black spots and a black triangular hourglass marking contrasting with the reddish-orange color on its back. The Mediterranean red bug measures 0.27” to 0.35” (7 – 9 mm), and the invasive black and red bug is common in California. The immature bugs are generally entirely red and develop black spots as they mature. Red and Black Bug Identification To identify the Mediterranean red bug, look for two black spots and a large black hourglass marking on a red-orange elongated oval body. Red and Black Blister Beetle (Meloidae) The red and black blister beetle (Mylabris quadripunctata) has a black head and red body with black round spots Some species of blister beetles are red insects with black spots covered in fine hairs. For example, the Mylabris quadripunctata beetle has a slender, bright red body with two rows of black dots and black markings at its tail. In addition, the red beetle has a small round black thorax and a small black head. Red and black blister beetles measure 0.4” to 0.8” (10 – 20 mm) long. They usually feed on insects and insect eggs and may also feed on flowers and leaves, causing some damage. Blister beetles get their name from the poisonous liquid contained in their bodies. This can cause skin irritation and blistering if you squash one of them and the secretion gets on your skin. Related reading: How to identify types of beetles. Red and Black Bug Identification Red and black blister beetles have bright red bodies with several black spots, six black legs, and two clubbed antennae. Desert Blister Beetle (Lytta magister) The desert blister beetle has reddish-orange head and black oval long body The desert blister beetle is a black bug with a red head, black and red legs, and filiform antennae. The large black and red beetle can measure between 0.6” and 1.3” (16 – 33 mm) and is common in California and the southwestern United States. The large beetles can also bite. The redheaded black blister beetle is commonly found in deserts, mainly feeding on brittlebush flowers. Like all blister beetles, the black and redheaded desert beetle exudes a yellowish, foul-smelling secretion that can cause a painful skin blister. Red and Black Bug Identification The desert blister beetle is easy to identify with its deep black body and shiny bright red head, red legs, and two antennae in a filiform shape. Cocklebur Weevil (Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus) The small cocklebur weevil has a small black head with long snout and black patterns on its red body The cocklebur weevil is a type of red and black bug with an identifiable black rounded snout, characteristic of all weevils. The red cocklebur weevil has an orange-red body, thorax, and a tiny black head. Identifiable black spots on its back contrast with its red-orange body. Red and black cocklebur weevils measure approximately 0.25” to 0.5” (6 – 13 mm) long. The tiny insects generally feed on cocklebur, ragweed, or thistle leaves. This species of red weevil, Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus, also goes by the name five-spotted billbug. Depending on the species, other types of red and black weevils can have more or fewer black dots on their red bodies. Red and Black Bug Identification The cocklebur weevil is easy to identify due to its dark orange to red body, black spots, black legs, a long black snout, and two geniculate antennae that look like they have joints. Bee Assassin Bug (Apiomerus crassipes) The black bee assassin is a flying bug with red markings on the sides of its body The bee assassin bug is a black bug with red markings along the sides of its abdomen. These dark-colored bugs have a triangular-shaped body, six black legs, and two thin, wiry antennae. Bee assassins are also flying bugs that go from plant to plant, hunting bees and wasps. Adult bee assassin bugs measure between 0.55” and 0.78” (14 – 20 mm) long. The black and red bugs are common throughout North America and are active from mid-spring until late fall. You will often find bee assassin bugs on pine trees. Red and Black Bug Identification The bee assassin bug is identified by its flattened body that is mostly black with reddish or orange margins, thick hairy legs, and thin antennae. Italian Striped Bug (Graphosoma italicum) The small Italian striped bug has a shield shaped body with alternating black and orange or red stripes The Italian striped bug is a striking black bug with orange-reddish stripes and a body in the shape of a shield. Also called the minstrel bug or harlequin bug, this small red and black striped bug has six black legs and thin, pointed antennae. The rounded bug measures between 0.31” and 0.47” (8 – 12 mm) long. There is no mistaking an Italian red and black striped bug if you find one in your garden. The bug can be found feeding under the umbrella-like flowers of plants in the family Apiaceae —parsley, carrot, celery, hemlock, and hogweed. The black and red stripes of the harlequin bug are a warning sign to predators. Red and Black Bug Identification The easily identifiable Italian striped bug is red with thick black stripes running longitudinally down its rounded, shield-shaped body. Two-Spotted Stink Bug (Cosmopepla conspicillaris) The two-spotted stink bug has a black shield shaped body with orange-red band and two black spots The two-spotted stink bug is a black bug with an orange-red band near its head and thin orange lines along its margins. The underside of this unusual shiny black bug is yellow with black stripes. The attractive black bug with its orange markings is a tiny bug that measures approximately 0.3” (8 mm) long. Other common names for the two-spotted stink bug refer to its unique red or orange speckled patterning. For example, it's called the happy bespectacled stink bug black bug. This refers to the red and black spectacle-like markings and the red or yellow semi-circle resembling a smile on its back. Red and Black Bug Identification The two-spotted stink bug is identified by its orange-red band that looks like a pair of colorful spectacles near its head. Other recognizable features of the stink bug are slender antennae, yellow markings on its belly, and a U-shaped bright marking on its back. Red and Black Ladybugs (Coccinellidae) The seven-spotted ladybird (Coccinella septempunctata) is common in Europe and was successfully introduced into states in the US Ladybugs are easily recognizable beetles due to their rounded red wing coverings with black spots. Red and black ladybugs measure between 0.04” and 0.4” (1 – 10 mm) long. The red bugs have wings and can swarm into buildings in the fall. Some types of ladybugs are yellow and black. Related reading: How to identify various types of ladybugs. Asian Lady Beetle (Harmonia axyridis) The Asian lady beetle is now becoming a pest in many countries The Asian lady beetle is an invasive species in North America in the ladybug family. The flying bugs can be red with black dots or black with red spots depending on the species. The small red and black adult beetles measure 0.2” to 0.3” (5 – 8 mm) long. Asian lady beetles look similar to native ladybugs but they bite and can cause allergic skin reactions. Black Clock Beetle (Pterostichus madidus) The black clock beetle has red legs with spines and black ridged body The black clock beetle is described as a black bug with red legs. Up close, pictures of the black beetle show its black and red legs have spines, and its shiny black abdomen is ridged. The black clock beetle measures 0.55” to 0.78” (14 – 20 mm) long and is found in gardens. Scarlet Lily Leaf Beetle (Lilioceris lilii) The scarlet lily leaf beetle is also called red lily beetle, or lily leaf beetle and is shiny red with black legs and antennae The scarlet lily beetle is a bright red leaf beetle with black head, legs and antennae that eats the leaves, stems and flowers of lilies and other plants from the family Liliaceae. Adult lily beetle measures about ¼–⅜ inch (6 to 9 mm) in length. Related articles: 15 Red and Black Bugs (Pictures) – Insect and Bug Identification was last modified: July 27th, 2023 by Jessica Nolan, Gardening Expert Question: I live in Kansas City, and whenever it gets warm this winter, I have these tiny red/black bugs crawling all over my house, and they smear red when you touch them. They don't seem to do any damage, but they are starting to show up inside now. I have had them sprayed before, but they seem to keep coming back every time it gets warm out.Answer: Probably what you have found are box elder bugs (Boisea trivittata). There are few other insects that have this coloration. The milkweed bug is similar, but they are found on flowers and not on trees, and they have orange markings. Box elder bugs are red and black.Box elder bugs are plant feeding insects that usually utilize the seeds of box elder or maple trees for food.Boxelder Bug IllustrationThey generally prefer to be on the female (seed-bearing) trees, and are there in the spring when the leaves and seeds begin to form. Box elder bugs have been reported on oak trees and some other tree species, and may use these trees when there are few box elders in the area.These insects have 2 to 3 generations per year. The fall generation overwinters in protected places. This sometimes includes sites around and in houses, which makes them a nuisance. They have some chemicals (called pheromones) that help them to gather in large numbers, so oftentimes thousands of them will gather in one place to spend the winter.Outside: It is best to start looking for points of entry around your home. Make sure window and doors are properly sealed, screens are in a good state of repair and so on. Focus on keeping the bugs out and not letting them gain entry into your home.Inside: Unfortunately some may gain entry into your home. They can be removed from inside the house with a vacuum cleaner. You may have to keep doing this for several days to get them all. During the winter they can be active during warm and sunny days. They don't bite or sting or reproduce inside of houses, but if crushed they could stain fabric.For additional treatments, contact your local Orkin Branch Office. A highly trained Orkin Pest Specialist will come to your home, assess the situation and develop a solution, backed by science, that best meets your needs.Related Questions: Orkin used the information above to also answer the following questions submitted by Orkin.com users:Question: We are being invaded by black beetle like insects with an orange-red marking on their backs. Can you help me identify them?Question: Hello, I live in southeast Michigan, and I found a common beetle, but I do not know what it is. Can you tell me? It has a long, black back with a vivid red-orange outline and two red-orange V-shapes on its back, if it were facing you. It has long antennae and red eyes. I usually find it on my front porch or on a window. Thanks for your help.Question: I keep seeing these big flies that have orange tips on the front where the eyes are and an orange tip on the bottom. The wings look grayish in color. I mostly see them around the window sills, kitchen or bathroom. When I spray or swat at them they fall to the ground but do not die unless you smush them. I thought they were drain flies, but now I'm not sure—they're bigger than the average fly and make a really loud noise when flying. Can you tell me what type of fly it is and what would get rid of them? I just started seeing them in the house. The windows and doors are never left open, so I do not know how they got in. No one wants to find small black bugs in the house. Small black insects crawling, scurrying, or slithering across a floor could be a beetle, spider, black ant, cockroach, or pillbug. But there are also tiny black bugs that are difficult to spot because they lurk in crevices or only come out at night. In some cases, the only signs of little black bugs are red, itchy, bite marks they leave on your skin. Knowing how to identify small black house bugs is crucial if you want to eradicate them. Some types of black beetles, weevils, and ants are attracted to foodstuffs in your pantry. Black flying bugs could be a sign of a plant infestation or rotten food in your kitchen. However, certain black spiders like the black widow are dangerous arthropods that can inflict a nasty bite. Many people refer to all dark brown or black house pests as bugs. However, not all insects are classified as true bugs. In scientific terms, a true bug is an insect in the order Hemiptera, and it has specialized mouthparts to suck plant juices or blood. This article refers to all pesky black insects or arthropods as house bugs. In this article, you will find out how to identify common types of tiny black bugs commonly found in houses. In addition, you will also get helpful tips on getting rid of the black bugs if the critters are causing a nuisance. How to Identify Small Black Bugs Identifying types of small black bugs is possible by looking at the pest's shape and if it has legs, wings, or a hard shell. However, identifying some black bugs is challenging because they are so tiny you need a microscope to distinguish their characteristics. In addition to looking at visual features of the black nuisance pests, it's vital to observe their habits, behavior, and where they are lurking. For example, some tiny black beetles look like bed bugs. But unlike bed bugs, they don't congregate in clusters behind beds. Tiny Black Bugs Tiny black bugs can be little dark brown or black insects ranging from a pinhead to a grain of rice or apple seed size. Types of small black bugs include ticks, bed bugs, and fleas. Most of the time, you'll only spot these minuscule bugs when they bite your skin, leaving an itchy red bump. Small black bugs Small black bugs can be tiny nuisance creatures like ants, beetles, weevils, or pirate bugs. Beetles and weevils are easy to identify because they have distinguishing hard shells covering two sets of wings and six legs. Small black ants have a recognizable slender body and tiny waist. Small Black Bugs in the House (With Pictures and Names) – Identification Guide Let's look in more detail at the identifying characteristics of tiny black bugs you are likely to find in the house. Black Carpet Beetle (Attagenus unicolor) The black carpet beetle is a tiny bug that infests carpets and fabrics in the house A black carpet beetle has a black oval body, a hard shell covering four wings, six legs, and two stumpy antennae. These nuisance flying pests that infest carpets and soft furnishings can also be black with yellow and white patterns. The tiny, winged pests measure 0.12” to 0.2 (3 – 5 mm) long. Adult black carpet beetles are usually spotted flying inside the house. They are white to start with but gradually turn black as the flying bugs mature. Reddish-brown colored carpet beetle larvae typically do the most damage by chewing through natural fibers like wool, silk, leather, and fur. To get rid of tiny black carpet beetles, you can use a vacuum cleaner or steam cleaner to remove the larvae from curtains, rugs, carpets, and furniture. Small Black Bug Identification: Adult carpet beetles have an identifiable hard, oval black or black and brown body with mottled patterns. Black Weevils – Pantry Bugs Weevils are small black beetles that can easily infest foodstuffs in your house Black weevils are tiny, slender beetles with a long snout and are often found in stored grains. Because the little black bugs are found in foodstuffs, they are also called pantry bugs or pests. The dark beetles can range in color from dark reddish-brown to nearly black. Adult weevil bugs usually measure up to 0.24” (6 mm) long. Several types of black weevil are classified as pantry pests. Usually, the common name of the bug tells you where it usually hides. For example, there are rice weevils, grain weevils, maize weevils, granary weevils, and bean weevils. To get rid of black weevils, it's necessary to thoroughly clean the insides of your kitchen cabinet shelves and pantry. First, use a vacuum to get rid of the bugs and their larvae. Then wash down the cabinet interiors with hot soapy water. Small Black Bug Identification: The identifying feature of a black weevil is its recognizable long snout and slender body. Fleas (Siphonaptera) A close up picture of a flea Fleas are disgusting, disease-carrying tiny brown bugs that look black. Fleas are so tiny that they are difficult to spot. In addition, they can jump huge distances and seem to disappear before your eyes. Fleas have a minute brown or black oval body and measure around 0.12” (3 mm) long. When looking at fleas closely, they may appear as small, dark specks or dots, similar to poppy seeds. Due to their small size and dark coloration, they can be easily mistaken for dirt or specks of debris on the surface of the host's skin or fur. Fleas get into the house on dogs, cats, old furniture, or even a person who is infested. Fleas cause a nuisance because they are blood-sucking biting pests. A flea bite can cause an itchy red bump to appear. To get rid of tiny black fleas, it's vital to steam clean upholstery, carpets, and pet bedding. Hot steam should kill fleas on contact. In addition, it may be necessary to get a flea collar for your pet cat or dog to prevent more issues with fleas. Small Black Bug Identification: Fleas are tiny, almost microscopic black-looking bugs. You can only see their identifying characteristics under a microscope. You may also spot the signs of fleas if your pets itch constantly or you have tiny bite marks on your skin. Bed Bugs (Cimex) Enlarged picture of a bed bug – The tiny brown bed bugs look black but are actually brown Bed bugs are irritating dark-colored insects with a flattened oval body that is dark brown, almost black. Bed bugs are hard to spot because they lurk in dark crevices of bed frames and furniture and only come out at night. The minuscule dark bugs have wings but can't fly and grow 0.16 – 0.2 (1.5 – 3 mm) long. You can usually find bed bugs in the seams of mattresses, in box springs, bed frames, and behind headboards. The pesky critters are so invasive they may inhabit electrical outlets, hide under loose wallpaper, or in cracks the width of a credit card. Getting rid of a bed bug infestation is notoriously tricky. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), there is no quick fix for bed bug eradication. In some cases, you may have to call in the professionals. Small Black Bug Identification: Bed bugs are usually identified by the bite marks they leave behind. The red itchy bumps can measure up to (5 mm) and be on your arms, legs, back, abdomen, or face. What makes bed bugs even more challenging to identify is that symptoms may only appear a few days after biting. Black Carpenter Ants (Camponotus) Black carpenter ants are little bugs that nest in old dried wood Black carpenter ants have a slender black body with a thin waist and bulbous abdomen. The ant's six legs are attached to its thorax. You can tell ants apart from other bugs due to their angled antennae and spindly appearance. Tiny black carpenter ants measure 0.6” (16 mm) long. Carpenter ants usually tunnel into deadwood to build their nests. Signs of a carpenter ant infestation include sawdust-like shavings and molted bodies near holes in wood. Another issue with these pesky black bugs is that they give you a nasty bite that causes a burning sensation. Some of the slim black creeping bugs also have wings and can fly. These are the carpenter ant swarmers, however both the worker ants and queen don't have wings. To get rid of carpenter ants, it's vital to reduce moisture and humidity in the house. Also, it's necessary to caulk cracks where the black ants could get into the house. In some cases, ant traps can help to reduce the number of ants. Small Black Bug Identification: Black ants have an identifiable slender body with an oval abdomen, six spindly black legs, and two long antennae. Black Garden Ant (Lasius niger) Black garden ants can get into the house and are attracted especially to sweet soft fruit Garden ants are slim, shiny black bugs that are more of a nuisance pest than a dangerous biting critter. Black garden ants become house pests when they enter homes foraging for food. Unlike carpenter ants, garden ants don't bite, and they don't carry disease. Garden ants are typically 0.2” (5 mm) long. To prevent black ants from becoming a nuisance bug, it's crucial to stop them from getting into the house. This means sealing up any cracks around windows or door frames and pipes entering the building. Additionally, sweet, soft-skinned fruit attracts ants. So, keep food sealed to remove the pest's food source. Black ants can be an indirect pest for gardeners. The black ants protect aphids so that the plant-destroying pests can provide plenty of honeydew. Small Black Bug Identification: A black garden ant is identified by its shiny black body, spindly brown or black legs, and a bulbous abdomen. Centipedes Centipedes are long creepy house bugs that are identified by numerous pairs of legs Centipedes are long brown to dark brown, almost black bugs that are attracted to moisture. Centipedes are easy to spot due to their numerous pairs of legs along their segmented body. Some black centipedes have brown legs and a black body; others have dark brown to light brown bodies. Centipedes range in size from a fraction of an inch to 12” (30 cm) long. Depending on the species of black centipede, the creeping bugs can have between 30 and 354 legs. Centipedes are more than an annoying black house pest. The slithering bugs have a venomous bite, and that can inflict a lot of pain. So, if you see the long, multi-legged creatures, it's best to kill them. It's also a good idea to avoid attracting centipedes into the house by keeping garden debris away from buildings. In the house, the long crawling black insects are typically found in dark, damp areas. You may find them in crawl spaces, basements, closets, or other dark places. Small Black Bug Identification: Black centipedes are easy to identify due to their multiple pairs of legs, two tails, and long antennae. Black-Legged Tick (Ixodes scapularis) Black-legged male tick (left) is smaller and black, whereas the female (right) is black and brown The black-legged tick or deer tick is a tiny black and brown bug that carries numerous diseases. Black ticks feed on animal and human blood. The ticks have a flattened oval body and are about the size of a sesame seed. The tiny brown and black bugs measure 0.11” (3 mm) long and have eight legs. The disease-carrying black bug uses its mouthparts to pierce the skin and burrow into the skin. Ticks then attach themselves while they suck on blood. Apart from finding a repulsive engorged tick on your skin, the symptoms of a tick bite are pain, swelling, and a burning sensation. It's always best to get medical attention after a tick bite to get the necessary treatment and remove the tick properly. Small Black Bug Identification: A tick is identified by its flattened tiny black or brown body and eight legs. Male ticks are entirely black or dark brown, whereas females are larger and have a black head and red abdomen. Fungus Gnats Fungus gnats are annoying black flies with a long slender body like a mosquito. The pesky black flies can grow 0.08” to 0.3” (2 – 8 mm) long, and they have six legs, translucent wings, and a pair of antennae. In the house, you will often see the tiny black flies crawling on houseplants or hovering above them. Fungus gnats are irritating as they fly around your face, nose, and eyes. The small black flies are sometimes mistaken for drain flies, which are tiny gray flies. However, you can usually spot the flying bugs near potted plants. The best way to prevent fungus gnat is to look after houseplants properly by avoiding overwatering them. This is because the irritating flying black bugs are attracted to damp soil. To get rid of fungus gnats, you can make a DIY neem oil spray to kill the houseplant pests. Small Black Bug Identification: Fungus gnats are slender black flies that infest potted plants, damp areas, and garden areas with poor drainage. Pirate Bugs (Anthocoridae) The tiny black and white pirate bugs are good for natural pest control and rarely infest homes Pirate bugs are black and white pests with two pairs of wings, an elongated, soft, flat body, and two long antennae. Pirate bugs are “true bugs” in the order Hemiptera. They have characteristic piercing and sucking mouthparts to inject prey and feed. Black and white pirate bugs measure 0.06” to 0.2” (1.5 – 5 mm) long. Minute pirate bugs are also called flower bugs. They are beneficial insects that will feed on aphids, whiteflies, small caterpillars, and mite eggs. Although pirate bugs are good for natural pest control, the tiny black bugs can inflict a painful bite. In some cases, an allergic reaction can cause the skin to swell up like a mosquito bite. However, the tiny bugs rarely infest homes. Instead, they are most likely to bite you when working in the garden in the fall. Small Black Bug Identification: Pirate bugs have an identifiable black and white oval body. Their wings allow them to fly short distances. Small Black Bugs with Hard Shell (With Pictures and Names) – Identification Guide Let's look at some small black bugs that are identified by their hard shell and black appearance. Pillbugs (Armadillidiidae) Pillbugs have dark hard segmented shell and can roll when they feel threatened Pillbugs are tiny grayish-black bugs that look as if they have armor plating. The bugs from the woodlice family have a segmented black oval body, multiple legs, and two antennae. You will often find pillbugs in dark, damp places, and they have the recognizable habit of rolling into a ball. Pillbugs measure up to 0.7” (18 mm) long. The hard-shelled black bugs are also called potato bugs, slaters, doodle bugs, or roly-polies. To get rid of pillbugs, remove all traces of excess moisture and seal all cracks and gaps in your home's exterior. Also, keep garden debris, weeds, and leaf piles well away from your house. Small Black Bug Identification: Pillbugs are identified by their dark-gray hard shell that looks like an armadillo. Oriental Cockroach or Waterbug (Blatta orientalis) Waterbug are small black bugs with hard shell and two long antennae Most cockroaches are brown bugs. But the Oriental cockroach is a nasty black bug with a hard shell, six legs, and two arched antennae. These nocturnal black bugs are a significant pest in homes that lurk in dark, warm, humid places. Black Oriental cockroaches measure between 1” and 1.2” (25 to 30 mm). It's vital to get rid of oriental cockroaches from your home because they carry disease. First, it's crucial to disrupt their environment to prevent a cockroach infestation. Therefore, you should sanitize drains, keep a tight lid on the trash can, and fix any plumbing issues. You can try using diatomaceous earth as a natural, non-toxic pesticide to kill bugs in the home. Small Black Bug Identification: An Oriental cockroach is identified by its elongated oval black body, six brown spiny legs, and two long antennae. Black Widow Spider (Latrodectus) Black widow spider are found in dark areas and can inflict a nasty bite The black widow spider is a serious pest in the house because the round, shiny black spider has a nasty bite. A black widow spider has a rounded, bulbous coal-black abdomen with a distinctive red hourglass marking. Black widow spiders range in size from 0.12” to 0.4” (3 – 10 mm). Black widows tend to be reclusive spiders that lurk in dark areas. You will usually tell if there is a black widow spider by its distinctive tangle web and haphazard shape. The best way to get rid of dangerous black spiders is to vacuum the spiders using the hose attachment. Small Black Bug Identification: Black widow spiders are easy to identify due to their rounded ball-like pitch-black, shiny abdomen with identifiable red markings. Related articles: Types of Small Black Bugs (With Pictures) – Identification was last modified: July 28th, 2023 by Jessica Nolan, Gardening Expert Small red bugs can appear in your home. Some of them may bite while others may simply be a nuisance pest. Various species of red bugs that are small can make their way into a home either by accident or on purpose. They can make their way into the house with food, plants, and pets, or on their flying through open windows or crawling under doors or through wall cracks. The following species of small red bugs are the most common either in the house or outdoors. Chigger Part of the Arachnida group, chiggers are similar to spiders and they are immature mites or parasitic larvae that bite. There are various species of chiggers, especially in states such as Texas. The bugs grow to a size between 0.15 and 0.30mm being quite small and often not easy to immediately spot on the skin. You can pick up chiggers by walking through dense vegetation in parks, woodlands, or other outdoor areas. These small bugs that are mostly red attach themselves quickly when you pass by the vegetation they live on. One of the common misconceptions about chiggers is that they attach themselves to the skin. Chiggers bite and pierce human skin using very sharp mouthparts. The skin reacts by inflammation and the bitten area sometimes engulfs chiggers themselves. Chigger bite These small bugs bite the skin with the sole purpose of injecting digestive enzymes at first. These digestive enzymes break down the skin to the extent they can eat it. The injected digestive enzymes turn the skin red and cause itching. One of the bad parts about these bites is you may only realize you've been bitten by chiggers after a few hours. During this time, multiple bites might have occurred on the body. Wearing long-sleeve clothes and taking a quick shower after camping, hiking, or passing through thick vegetation are among the common measures for keeping these bugs away. Clover mite Clover mites are a common species of red small bugs commonly found in the house or outdoors. These small bugs may appear on the lawn. They feed on clovers and grass and they can make it indoors as well. These small bugs move indoors mainly attracted by humidity. Clover mites should not be seen in the house and you might want to check for water leaks or high humidity if you see the red bugs indoors. Known for not biting, these bugs cannot be squashed as they leave red residue and stain floors, walls, and carpets. It's best to vacuum them to eliminate them without leaving residue. Clover mites can also be prevented by regularly mowing the lawn and taking care of all vegetation around the house. This includes clearing mulch and heavy damp conditions in mulch which may favor these bugs. Clover mites are known to only have female bugs which means they don't need males for reproduction. A single female can lay tens of eggs at a time which means multiplication rates are high. Bed bug Bed bugs are some of the most problematic bug species when it comes to poor sanitation in the home. These tiny red bugs are problematic because their bites often go unnoticed since they only bite at night. The nocturnal bed bug has a tiny body of a red color which is influenced by the blood it consumes from the host. Poor sanitation as well as infestation from visiting a home or sleeping in another bed with bed bugs are among the most common reasons these bugs can be in your bed. The bites of bed bugs can cause itchiness. But not all bed bug bites are itchy which means it might take longer for you to notice them in your bed. Bed bug bite Dealing with bed bugs requires proper sanitation measures around the house and on the bed. Vacuuming and washing the bed are often needed. Bed bugs might crawl into tiny spaces during the day. You need to inspect and clean these tiny spaces yourself as the bugs might be hiding during the day, the time you are most likely trying to clean the bed. Washing all bedding at a high temperature is also recommended. Another common aspect to remember is that a growing number of bed bugs leads to a wider infested area. Bed bugs can move onto furniture and walls around the bed when they start multiplying in high numbers. Futher Reading: Red Flour Beetle Stored grain products attract Red Flour beetles. These small bugs typically measured 4-5mm when spotted in the pantry. Bugs of the genus feed on flour, nuts, seeds, and even dry pet food. They make it into the house through infested foods, typically brought from farmer's markets or supermarkets. Long shelf life foods such as flour are less likely to be checked for pests. This is why Red flour beetles can thrive in multiple dry foods until they are spotted. Very high multiplication rates don't help either. Female Red flour beetles have multiple male partners which ensure they find a good mate for rapid multiplication. Eliminating these red or red-brown bugs from the pantry involves getting rid of all infested foods. There are no proven methods of eliminating these bugs by picking them out as they also lay eggs and grow larvae in stored dry foods. Red flour beetle larvae are white or yellow-white. It can also be found in the dry foods adults consume. Both the larvae and the adult beetles are eliminated by discarding all infested foods. You can also replace stored dried foods every few months to eliminate the risk of growing pests inside the house. Deer tick Deer ticks are small red bugs that bite. These ticks prefer larger mammals such as deer and even humans to small mammals for a larger blood meal. You can pick up Red deer ticks by brushing against vegetation or foliage when walking through woodland, parks, or other areas of dense vegetation. These bugs can move on to a host such as a human when in close contact with their natural habitat, mainly in areas with deer. Red deer ticks have painful bites and attach themselves to the skin. They need to be removed by hand using tweezers. These red biting bugs also carry diseases such as Lyme disease. This makes them as dangerous are regular ticks or even more dangerous as they feed on more blood. You can reduce the risk of picking up Red deer ticks by staying away from foliage when walking in areas of dense vegetation. Wearing insect-repelling sprays such as those with picaridin is also recommended to repel Red deer ticks as well as other types of ticks. Red deer ticks might also make it to the vegetation around the house if your home is located next to woodlands. It means you need to trim vegetation and mow the lawn as often as possible to reduce the risk of having a Red deer tick invasion around your home. Red spider mite Growing to a size of around 0.5mm, Red spider mites are some of the smallest red bugs that can bite humans. These bugs prefer not to bite people, however. They feed on plant sap, similar to aphids. Unlike aphids, Red spider mites can bite. These bites can be painful and cause an allergic reaction. Red spider mites are found on apple trees as well as on dense vegetation. A particular factor about their habitat can influence them and keep them away. This is high humidity. Red spider mites prefer dry areas. Watering plants and trimming vegetation around the house are recommended to keep these bugs away. Insecticides such as insecticidal soap might also keep Red spider mites away. You need to spray the garden in the spring as the weather gets warm before these bugs arise. Red spider mites can be a considerable problem on crops or farms. Large-scale prevention measures are different in these situations. Introducing predatory species is often recommended in these cases. Lacewings are among the bugs that eat Red spider mites to the extent they eliminate them from a given area. Preventing Red spider mites is easier than removing them. These small red bugs rapidly infest a given area otherwise. Further Reading: Early signs of spider mites. Boxelder bugs Boxelder nymphs typically do not bite. These small red and black bugs only bite when roughly handled. The bugs are the young of the Boxelder species known for feeding on the sap of boxelder, ash, and other types of trees. Adults might have a gray color but their nymphs have a dominant red color. These bugs first appear in the spring or early summer before turning into adults in mid-summer or late summer. Boxelder nymphs appear on trees where they feed on tree sap for the rest of the summer. The damage to trees such as ash is minimal as the pests do not feed or breed in excessive amounts. One of the main problems with these nymphs is that they turn into adults that overwinter in homes or other warm places. Adult bugs of the species move indoors in the fall when temperatures drop. They overwinter in warm sheltered locations. You can eliminate them from your home by vacuuming. Alternatively, you can spray water with soap to kill these young bugs on the spot. While these bugs don't bite or cause damage to your home, they are still unpleasant. Furthermore, they can leave a red residue when squashed. Red ants Red ants such as Red fire ants are some of the most problematic tiny ants that can bite. These ants have a red or dark red or red-brown color. They move indoors through wall openings or open windows. Red ants can sting and can sometimes cause allergic reactions. Unlike bees, red ants don't lose the stinger as they bite. This means they can sting multiple times. Even more, they prefer to sting multiple times until you stop them by brushing them off the skin. Red fire ants are a bit more complicated to notice if you do not feel the sting yourself. These ants inject toxins which can lead to itchy skin. In extreme cases, Red fire ant bites can cause nausea, sweating, and even fever. It's time to go to the hospital if you have these symptoms. You can pour boiling water on red ants to kill them efficiently. Baking soda can also be used to keep them away. One of the most pleasant methods of keeping red stinging ants out of the house is by spraying essential oils on the perimeter of the house. Peppermint essential oil is one of the natural preventive solutions that keep these ants away. You can also use insecticides or call a professional to spray insecticide at least once per year to keep these ants out. Woodlouse spider Red spiders are common in homes as well as around man-made structures such as barns and garages. These spiders can sometimes bite, even if the bite and its symptoms can vary considerably. The Red House Spider is the most common species of red spider you find indoors. Spiders of this genus have a red body color and they appear similar to Black Widows as their abdomen has a darker color. Red House spiders have a red or dark red body that grows to a size between 5 and 8mm. While small, these spiders may still bite. This species has venom but the venom isn't necrotic. It means it doesn't cause significant levels of pain or that they aren't as dangerous are Black Widows. You can remove these spiders from your home by vacuuming. Preventing measures also involve frequent vacuuming and closing the windows at night when these spiders might be attracted to artificial light. Eliminating all insects red spiders might see as food from the house is also recommended. Essential oils and vinegar don't deter these spiders. Unlike other red bugs, red spiders need to be manually removed to have a bug-free home. Common fruit fly Fruit flies can sometimes be red. Fruit flies can sometimes be known as Red house flies due to their large red eyes which make it appear as if their entire heads are red. Flies of this genus are very common homes. They appear on ripe fruits and fermented fruits and they spread quickly. While these flies do not bite, they can still be problematic through the rapid spread and possibly through the infestation of food. Red fruit flies need to be eliminated from the house before multiplying in large numbers. This might only be possible by eliminating their favorite food, ripe fruit. All overripe fruit attracts fruit flies. Storing fruits in the refrigerator is one of the common methods of keeping fruit flies out. These flies are identified by their large red eyes when feeding on fruit. Furthermore, they might pose a health risk by laying eggs directly on the fruit. Centipedes Centipedes are some of the most common small red species seen in or around the house. The presence of food and high moisture are among the most important aspects when it comes to a perfect centipede habitat. Not all centipedes are red and not all centipedes bite. However, species such as Scolopocryptops sexspinosus (Red Centipede) that are common in North America are red. This type of centipede grows to a length of up to 3 inches and it lives in damp soil. It also bites which means you should not handle it barehanded. Such red centipedes are normally seeking insects, bugs, and spiders to feed on. Some manage to make their way indoors, especially in the basement where your home has higher humidity. Eliminating centipedes is difficult as you don't see them easily. They crawl under mulch, logs, and rocks. Out of direct sunlight and sheltered by a humid place, centipedes only come out looking for food. Controlling humidity levels normally helps get rid of centipedes. You can trim vegetation to reduce ground-level humidity and proceed to reduce indoor humidity. Using a dehumidifier in the basement or the bathroom is among the measures that help control excessive humidity. In turn, this also helps reduce the natural habitat of some of the bugs centipedes eat. Since roaches like humidity, you're eliminating a wider range of pests by controlling air quality inside the house. Outside of the house, centipedes are known for eating earthworms. These types of worms also need humidity so reducing plant and lawn watering frequency when possible can be a good additional preventive measure. Millipedes Millipedes often come in red color, alongside common brown, orange, and even black colors. They eat dying plant matter and are often found in gardens and backyards. While not specifically common indoors, they can still make it into the house by accident. These creatures don't bite. They don't sting either. However, millipedes have toxins which is why they have very few natural predators. While they don't carry diseases, millipedes are still not a comfortable sight around the house. These creatures are beneficial and are sometimes seen as a bug that recycles organic matter. Millipedes eat decaying plant matter and animals. A recycling-related benefit is tied to all millipedes. On the other hand, eliminating millipedes is the first action that comes to mind of those who see them around the house or on indoor potted plants. A bug-repelling spray is often used to kill millipedes. You can use such a spray directly on millipedes to kill them on the spot. Most millipedes go into a defensive position when a toxic spray is applied to them. They curl up to protect themselves. Spraying millipedes for up to a few seconds is recommended when it comes to controlling their numbers around the home. Red springtails Identified by their short legs and oval body shape, red springtails don't bite. They don't spread disease either. These red bugs grow to a size of around 0.2mm, being one of the smallest types of red bugs found around the home. Tiny bugs such as red springtails can also make their way into the home, mainly through cracks or with potted plants. Springtails feed on fungi and bacteria. Both of these developments in high moisture conditions. Controlling excessive humidity is the best method of controlling red springtails. Allowing soil to dry completely is known to kill springtails. Furthermore, these bugs are also known for being killed with pesticides, but not completely. Non-toxic soil treatments are a better choice when it comes to springtail management. Springtails multiply in their thousands. Even in high numbers, these bugs are a nuisance pest. Preventing them involves applying similar measures to the prevention of other bugs such as spraying insecticide. Some people into more natural gardening use essential oils which may act similarly to insecticide. Eucalyptus essential oil can be sprayed around the house to lower the chances of springtail invasions. This type of essential oil has insecticide properties. Dark Paper wasp (Polistes fuscatus) Red wasps are some of the most common wasps around the house. These insects feed on nectar and they build large nests close to the home, on the home, or other man-made structures. Red wasps are known for adding to their nests which means these nests get larger and large with time. You can identify red wasp nests by their wood-like or plant-like texture and by hearing wasps inside during the night. Red wasps are about 1 inch long and they have dark or black long wings. These creatures are diurnal and always away from the nest collecting nectar during the day. Red wasps further use saliva to build nests. Saliva and chewed materials are used by these wasps to build nests. Eliminating these wasps is not based on preventive measures. Recommended elimination methods involve removing the nest. You can remove red wasp nests by using a large plastic bag while the wasps are inside. They are only in the nest at night as Red wasps are diurnal. Removing the nest when small is easier compared to a larger nest that's attached to the house better. A reduced size also means you can handle the nest easier. Planting flowers further away from the house might be one of the methods to control the risk of having a wasp nest too close to the house. However, this type of wasps can still fly up to a few miles looking for food so the method isn't a guarantee wasps won't settle next to the house. Red velvet mite Red velvet mites are known biological control bugs. They prey on multiple species of invasive bugs but are parasitic as larvae themselves. Red velvet mites are types of arachnids. These small red bugs become predators as they mature. They can be eliminated with insecticide even if no insecticide is specifically made for Red velvet mites. These bugs appear late in the summer and even in the fall. They overwinter as adults and begin mating in the spring. You can eliminate them by spraying insecticide in key areas around the house. Insecticidal soap is also used to kill Red velvet mites when seen around the house. Snout mites Snout mites are named after their elongated mouthparts or snouts. These bugs have an orange-red or red color and are generally harmless to humans. The bug eats fungi and multiple other types of small insects. Largely harmless to humans, Snout mites can still be a problem when they multiply in high numbers. They can be eliminated by using a biological control agent. The insecticide is often used to deter these types of mites. A sanitation solution is also used against these types of mites which may cause allergies. Managing snout mites properly is recommended since the bugs can cause various types of breathing allergies or skin allergies. Red aphids Red aphids are commonly found in gardens. An elongated oval body with short legs is characteristic of these small red bugs. Red aphids have a distinguishable trait when it comes to diet. They only feed on plant sap which means they live and rest on plants as they need a lot of it to survive. Like most other aphids, red aphids don't bite. They don't have mouthparts, just an elongated needle-like mouth used to pierce and drink the sap. These elongated mouthparts cannot pierce human skin. Eliminating red aphids is mandatory when it comes to saving plants, flowers, vegetables, and herbs in the garden. Red aphids are known for their impact on these plants as they can suck the sap to the point plants die. You need to remove aphids by hand or by using other methods to save the plants. Washing plants with a water hose can remove aphids. Spraying deterring sprays on plants also keeps aphids away. Deterring solutions include vinegar, essential oils, and water with soap. Aphids tend to move along quickly as they hate the smell of soap. Cockroaches Cockroaches are some of the most problematic bugs in the house as they carry diseases and viruses. They are seen as dirty bugs as they are also scavengers. American cockroaches have a brown-red color. The species represents one of the largest cockroaches often found in homes. American cockroaches feed leftover food and organic material around the kitchen. Unlike many other types of red bugs, American cockroaches thrive in homes and seek out homes to live in. Warmth, humidity, and food availability make these bugs love living indoors. Removing all leftover foods and cleaning out organic material buildup in or under the sink are recommended first measures to keep these bugs out of the house. Sealing all entry points around doors and windows is also a must as American cockroaches easily move indoors. These roaches can also move indoors when the weather turns bad quickly. These roaches seek out shelter under heavy rain or when the temperature drops unexpectedly. Scarlet Lilly beetles Scarlet Lilly beetles (Lilioceris lilii) have flattened oval shapes and an orange-red or red color. As their name implies, Scarlet Lily beetles feed on lily leaves. They also eat the leaves of all Liliaceae flowers. Scarlet Lily beetles are some of the most effective species in damaging lilies in gardens. One of the recommended preventive methods is not to plant any lilies at all. However, lilies have a decorative purpose and they can be grown without any Scarlet Lily beetles around. These bugs don't bit but they can be eliminated with neem oil sprayed directly on lilies. Other types of essential oil such as peppermint essential oil are successfully used against Scarlet Lily beetles. Essential oils are sprayed on lilies to prevent these bugs. Tiny red bugs may be dangerous, but most aren't. Blood-sucking bugs are particularly dangerous but many red bugs of a small size pose no human threat. Correct species identification removes all doubts when it comes to the dangers of a certain species. You can identify red bugs species to know if they are dangerous. Some tiny red bugs are known to bite it is best to brush them off the skin as soon as they land on you. You should try to remember which red bug has bitten so that you know what to do next. Even tiny red bugs can be dangerous so it's best to know which species have stung or bitten so that you can inform a doctor in case the symptoms require visiting a doctor. Some bugs such as chiggers might bite. You need to clean the bitten area or the stung area with soap and water first. Stingers that may get stuck into the skin also need to be removed. You can apply ice or a cold compress to prevent the area from swelling. Seeing a doctor might be necessary in case of severe reactions to the bite of a small red bug. You might need to see a doctor even if mild symptoms do not go away within 1-2 days. Itchiness that doesn't go away Itchiness is common when bitten or stung by certain bugs. What's not common is for itchiness to persist for a long time. It's time to see a doctor whenever itchiness doesn't go away after 24-48 hours. It should not take longer than 48 hours to see a doctor with these symptoms. Some bug bites are known to cause either mild or severe allergic reactions. Some of these reactions are tied to respiratory issues. Red bug bites can lead to breathing difficulties. You need to see a doctor to get treatment if this is one of your symptoms. Anti-allergic medication might be recommended by the doctor but each person with a respiratory problem is dealt with separately. Allergic reactions to small red bug bites are also seen on a skin level. Large red blotches or puffy skin that doesn't go away are signs of an allergic skin reaction. You can eliminate the risks of a severe allergic reaction by testing yourself if you're a person prone to allergic reactions. Tests reveal exactly the species you're allergic to and the species you need to stay away from. Sweating that doesn't naturally go away is a sign of a complication following a red bug bite. Since some of these bugs carry diseases such as Lyme disease, it's best not to overlook sweating as a major warning sign something is wrong and to see a doctor. Fever symptoms following a tiny red bug bite are rare. However, they exist and you should take fever as a major warning sign your body is showing a severe symptom of a red bug bite or sting. All cases with fever should see the nearest hospital. It helps to know which red bug has caused the fever so that doctors can act accordingly. Not all symptoms are as serious as fever. Still, severe symptoms such as nausea that don't go away are an indication a hospital visit is also needed. Red bugs can cause nausea in the case of multiple stings. Insects with stingers that don't break can sting multiple times. As a result, nausea can be a serious symptom in the case of repeated bites or stings. Getting rid of tiny red bugs requires considering multiple methods of elimination. These methods depend on the species of red bugs themselves. Insecticidal soap is a recommended method of getting rid of tiny red bugs outside of the house such as aphids and other bugs on plants and flowers. Insecticidal soap is a type of soap that acts as an insecticide and kills bugs on the spot. For indoor red bug invasions, you need to consider alternative measures. Most are tied to reducing the variables which attract and keep bugs in the house such as humidity. Lowering humidity levels in the basement, bathroom, and kitchen is recommended. A lower humidity level also keeps insects and red bugs eating away. Vacuuming is the safest method of getting rid of tiny red bugs inside the house. Since insecticide isn't safe for indoor use without the recommendations of a professional, vacuuming becomes one of the processes that safely remove these bugs. You can vacuum the entire house or the area you see these bugs in. For example, bed bugs affect the bed and the area around it only in the case of serious invasions with high reproduction rates. You can vacuum the bed, the mattress, and the entire bedroom to eliminate these bugs without spraying insecticide. Small red bugs can also be prevented. It's best to create barriers to keep these bugs out as they are more difficult to eliminate once they establish themselves. Essential oils such as peppermint essential oil can be sprayed on lilies affected by red bugs. Peppermint oil can be sprayed on these plants to keep them safe. Neem oil is also widely used as a preventive solution against a wide range of small red bugs such as springtails and centipedes. Trimming vegetation and clearing clutter around the house are recommended to keep these small bugs away. One of the overlooked methods of keeping bugs away is swapping old dry food for new food. Red flour bugs are mainly attracted to old flour or they can be completely overlooked in flour that's been sitting in cupboards for more than a few months. The area of the house also needs to be clean and dry. Excessive mulch use sometimes favors high soil humidity which some red bugs love. Refraining from overwatering the plants is also recommended. Too much water creates the perfect conditions for many red bugs. Some of them can make it indoors. Roaches are some of the bugs that love high humidity around the house, especially when there's plenty of organic matter to feed on. They also love high indoor humidity as they can easily move into the house looking for food. You need to keep soils dry to either kill roaches or similar bugs or to keep them away as long as possible. Small red bugs can be nuisance pests or they can be dangerous pests that can bite. For example, Red deer ticks are some of the most problematic red bugs as they can bite and they can get stuck in the skin. Other species such as mites might not pose an immediate threat. However, many mites might still pose a long-term threat, especially when it comes to developing allergies. While small, red bugs need to be eliminated when seen in the house as they can carry diseases such as Lyme diseases or attract other predators which eat small bugs. You should avoid touching the small red bugs you cannot correctly identify as many can bite. Tiny black bugs can be found in homes and they are not pleasant to see. These could include beetles, spiders, black ants, cockroaches, and pillbugs that crawl, scurry or slither across the floor. However, some tiny black bugs are hard to detect as they hide in cracks or only come out at night. Sometimes, the only way to detect their presence is through red, itchy bite marks on the skin. Identifying the type of tiny black bugs in the house is crucial to effectively eliminate them. Certain kinds of black beetles, weevils, and ants are attracted to foodstuffs in pantries, while black flying bugs may infest plants or be attracted to rotting food in the kitchen. Deadly arthropods such as the black widow spider are also black and can deliver a poisonous bite. This article will provide information on how to identify several types of tiny black bugs commonly found in residences, as well as helpful tips on how to get rid of them if they are causing problems. How to Identify Small Black Bugs Determining the types of small black bugs can be done by examining their shape, as well as whether they have legs, wings, or a hard shell. However, identifying certain black bugs can be challenging as they are incredibly small, requiring the use of a microscope to observe their features. In addition to physical characteristics, it is essential to observe the behavior and location of black pests. For instance, bed bugs are tiny black beetles that resemble bed bugs in appearance, but they do not gather in clusters behind beds like bed bugs do. Therefore, monitoring the habits, activity, and whereabouts of these pests is crucial in accurately identifying them. Tiny Black Bugs Tiny black bugs can refer to small insects that range in size from a pinhead to that of a grain of rice or an apple seed. These can include ticks, bed bugs, fleas, and other similar pests that can be difficult to detect until they bite and leave an itchy red bump on the skin. While some little black insects such as ants, beetles, weevils, and pirate bugs can be a minor nuisance, they are relatively easy to identify. Beetles and weevils have two sets of wings and six legs, and are covered by a distinctive hard shell. Tiny black ants have a slender body and a small waist, making them easily recognizable. Small Black Bugs in the House (With Pictures and Names) – Identification Guide Let's take a closer look at the little black bugs you're likely to encounter in your home, as well as their identifying features. Black Carpet Beetle (Attagenus unicolor) Black Weevils – Pantry Bugs Black weevils are thin, small beetles with a long snout that are often found in stored grains. These pantry pests are typically referred to as tiny black insects that can infest food products, and can range in color from dark reddish-brown to almost black. Adult black weevils are typically around 0.24 inches (6 mm) in length. Pantry pests can include various types of black weevils, and their common names can provide clues as to where they might be found. Examples of these pests include rice weevils, grain weevils, maize weevils, granary weevils, and bean weevils. The distinctive long snout and slender body of tiny black bugs make them easy to distinguish from other species. Fleas (Siphonaptera) Bed Bugs (Cimex) Bed bugs are dark-colored pests with a flattened, oval body that appears almost black in color. They are challenging to detect as they typically hide in the depths of bed frames and furniture during the day and only emerge at night. Despite having wings, bed bugs are unable to fly and usually measure no longer than 0.16 to 0.2 inches (1.5 to 3 mm) in length. Bed bugs are commonly found in various places including mattress seams, box springs, bed frames, and behind headboards. They can also reside in electrical outlets, beneath loose wallpaper, and even in cracks as narrow as a credit card. Identifying bed bugs can be done by the red, itchy bite marks they leave on the skin. These bumps can appear on the arms, legs, back, abdomen, or face and may reach up to 5 mm in size. The delayed onset of symptoms, which may occur several days after the initial bite, can make it challenging to detect bed bugs. Black Carpenter Ants (Camponotus) Black Garden Ant (Lasius niger) Black garden ants are small, glossy black bugs that are more of a nuisance pest than a deadly biting bug. When black garden ants invade homes in search of food, they become household pests. Unlike carpenter ants, garden ants do not spread disease or bite humans. These small black ants typically measure around 0.2 inches (5 mm) in length. Gardeners may view black ants as problematic since they often protect aphids, allowing plant-destroying pests to produce honeydew in abundance. The black garden ant can be distinguished from other small bugs by its glossy black body, spindly brown or black legs, and bulbous abdomen. Centipedes Black-Legged Tick (Ixodes scapularis) The black-legged tick, also known as the deer tick, is a tiny black and brown bug that can transmit various illnesses. These black ticks are attracted to the blood of both animals and humans. They typically have a flattened oval shape and are roughly the size of a sesame seed, measuring around 0.11 inches (3 mm) in length. The disease-carrying black bug pierces the skin with its mouthparts and burrows inside to feed on blood. After feeding, ticks can become engorged and difficult to remove. Tick bites can cause pain, swelling, and a burning sensation. It is always recommended to see a doctor after a tick bite to ensure proper treatment and safe removal of the tick. Fungus Gnats Fungus gnats are small black flies that have a mosquito-like thin body, six legs, clear transparent wings, and a pair of antennae. They can grow up to 0.3 inches (8 mm) in length and may be seen flying around or crawling on houseplants in the home. Properly caring for houseplants can help prevent fungus gnats. These pesky black insects are attracted to damp soil, so avoiding overwatering is essential. A DIY neem oil spray can also be used to get rid of fungus gnats and other houseplant pests. Fungus gnats typically colonize potted plants, damp areas, and garden areas with minimal drainage. They are small black bugs that can be a nuisance in the home. Pirate Bugs (Anthocoridae) Pirate bugs are black and white insects with an elongated, soft, flat body, two pairs of wings, and two long antennae that distinguish them from other bugs. They belong to the order Hemiptera and have piercing and sucking mouthparts that they use to inject prey and feed. Pirate bugs are typically 0.06″ to 0.2″ (1.5 to 5 mm) long. Minute pirate bugs, also known as flower bugs, are beneficial insects that feed on aphids, whiteflies, small caterpillars, and mite eggs. Although pirate bugs are beneficial for natural pest control, they may deliver a painful bite. In some cases, an allergic reaction can cause the skin to swell like a mosquito bite. However, these little black bugs seldom invade homes and are more likely to bite you in the garden while working during the autumn. Small Black Bugs with Hard Shell (With Pictures and Names) – Identification Guide Let's look at some small black bugs that are identified by their hard shell and black appearance. Pillbugs (Armadillidiidae) Pillbugs, which are also known as woodlice bugs, have a grayish-black color and a body that is segmented and oval-shaped. They have armored plating and multiple legs, as well as two antennae. Pillbugs are often found in dark, damp areas and have the unique ability to roll into a ball. To eliminate pillbugs, it is important to remove any signs of dampness from the exterior of your home and seal all openings and gaps. It is also recommended to keep garden debris, weeds, and leaf piles away from your home as these can attract pillbugs. Oriental Cockroach or Waterbug (Blatta orientalis) The most common type of cockroach is brown, but there is another type known as the Oriental cockroach, which is a dark black bug with a tough exoskeleton, six legs, and two curved antennae. These black pests are usually found in dark and warm areas of a home and can pose health risks due to the potential transmission of disease. The length of an Oriental cockroach can vary from 1 to 1.2 inches (25 to 30 mm). To get rid of Oriental cockroaches, it is important to disrupt their living environment by cleaning drains, keeping the trash can lid closed, and addressing any plumbing issues. Oriental cockroaches are characterized by their elongated oval-shaped black bodies, six spiny brown legs, and two long antennae. Black Widow Spider (Latrodectus) Black widow spiders are considered a significant household pest because of their nasty bite. These spiders have a rounded, glossy black body with a distinctive red hourglass pattern on their bulbous abdomen. Black widows can range in size from 0.12″ to 0.4″ (3 – 10 mm). Black widow spiders are reclusive and typically reside in dark, secluded areas. Their distinctive tangle webs and haphazard shape can help you identify their presence. To get rid of these dangerous black spiders, vacuum them up using the hose attachment. Red

and black bugs can be found crawling in your garden, and they can also invade your home. Identifying insects with a red and black body can help know how to get rid of them and if they are dangerous. The most common red and black insects in yards and houses in spring are boxelder bugs and red-shouldered bugs. The annoying insects can become a nuisance indoors even though they are generally harmless. Seeing bugs with red and black coloring can create a sense of panic. For example, the oval insect's black body and bright red or orange dots or stripes could appear dangerous due to warning red colors. Or red insects that have black markings may have a menacing appearance. Some red and black bugs like the boxelder bug can also inflict an irritating bite. Many people refer to all kinds of red and black pests as bugs. However, not all colorful insects in your house or garden are bugs in the scientific sense. True bugs are insects that belong to the order Hemiptera. The six-legged insects have two antennae and piercing mouthparts that allow the red and black bugs to bite into plant tissue to suck its juices. This article refers to all types of red and black insects or arthropods as bugs, even though some are not bugs in the true sense. Descriptions and pictures of black bugs with red markings will help identify the creeping crawly you have discovered in your house or yard. How to Identify Red and Black Bugs and Insects Apart from the red and black coloring, you can identify a bug or insect by its six legs, two antennae, and if it has wings or not. Red and black bug identification is also possible by observing the insect's size, behavior, habitat, and distinguishing markings. Some black and red bugs are so tiny you need a magnifying glass to identify them correctly. For example, flying red and black bugs like boxelder bugs (Boisea trivittata) and red-shouldered bugs (Jadera haematoloma) look similar. However, boxelders have more prominent red stripes on their black body. But, both types of bugs are easy to distinguish from red and black beetles that have rounded hard shells and wings. Types of Red and Black Bugs (with Pictures) – Identification Guide Let's look in more detail at 15 types of common bugs that can be identified by their red and black colors. Boxelder Bug (Boisea trivittata) Boxelder bugs have a flat black body with orange-red markings The boxelder bug is a common black and red flying bug with reddish or orange lines or markings on a flattened, elongated oval body. Adult winged boxelder bugs measure 0.5" (13 mm) long. Boxelder bugs are active from spring through fall and are found on maples, boxelder trees, ash trees, and strawberries. Like all insects, black and orange boxelder bugs have six legs and two antennae. Adult females lay brightly colored red eggs on host plants. Boxelder nymphs are identified by their bright red bodies and black heads. As the black and orange bugs mature, they become dark gray and develop dark orange stripes. Adult and nymph boxelder bugs You may get a lot of boxelder bugs in your home if there is a food source nearby. These small annoying pests enter buildings in summer through open windows, doors, or cracks in the siding or foundation. You may see masses of black and red bugs near cracks as they clamber to get into a house. The red and black winged boxelder bugs are also excellent fliers and may come from nearby infested boxelder trees. Black and red boxelder bugs can bite, but it's rare they bite humans. They are more of a nuisance pest in the home, especially if you have a large infestation. Because the bugs are inactive when it's cold, turning on the heating may cause them to become active and start crawling throughout your house. The best way to get rid of boxelder bugs is to prevent them from getting into your home. For example, window or door screens can stop the red and black bug flying into your home. Also, caulking cracks around windows and in walls will help keep all insects out. Even though boxelder bugs are classified as "scentless plant bugs," they emit a pungent, foul-smelling odor when crushed. If you see groups of red and black bugs on the sides of your house, you can spray them with insecticidal soap or hot soapy water to dislodge and kill them. Red and Black Bug Identification The boxelder bug is identified by its dark gray or black body, with orange-red markings on its wings and back. Red-Shouldered Bug (Jadera haematoloma) Red-shouldered bugs have a black oval flat body with red markings and red eyes Also called the soapberry bug, the red-shouldered bug is a black insect with bright red markings on its shoulders and wing edges. The grayish-black bug also has identifiable bright red eyes. The black and red bugs measure around 0.5" (13 mm) long and have distinctive flattened oval bodies. Red-shouldered bug nymphs have a bright red body and a black head. Like boxelder nymphs, they have black heads, dark brown or black legs, and antennae. Red-shouldered bug adult and nymph Red-shouldered bugs are common in Florida gardens. The short-winged black and red bugs are primarily found on host trees feeding on leaves and stems. However, you will also find the bugs on lawns where they congregate in masses to feed on seeds fallen from trees. Red-shouldered bugs look like boxelder bugs and are classed as scentless plant bugs. The way to tell the bugs apart is by the red markings. Jadera haematoloma is mostly a dark gray or black color with only red shoulders and a thin red stripe running along each edge. Crushing red-shoulder bugs can leave a reddish stain on clothing. Red and Black Bug Identification To identify a red-shouldered bug, look for its elongated oval body with vibrant red colors on its shoulders and body edges. Milkweed Assassin Bug (Zelus longipes) Milkweed assassin bug can be identified by its distinctive red and black colored body, very long antennae and legs The milkweed assassin bug is identified by its bright red body with black patterns, six long black legs, and pair of black wings. In addition, milkweed assassin bugs have a slender body with an elongated oval abdomen, and a long sucking mouthpart. Up close, pictures of these red and black bugs show they have white markings on the underside of the abdomen. Milkweed assassin nymph Milkweed assassin bugs measure approximately 0.5" (20 mm) long. The red and black bugs are beneficial insects that prey on caterpillars, flies, mosquitoes, and destructive beetles. The slender bugs are not aggressive, but they can inflict a painful bite if you trap them. Red and Black Bug Identification The milkweed assassin bug has an easily-identifiable bright-red and black pattern, slender body with jet black hairy legs, two long black antennae, and a long piercing snout-like mouthpiece. Firebug (Pyrrhocoris apterus) Firebugs can be easily identified by their red body with black round spots and triangular markings The firebug is a small red bug with black round spots and triangular markings on its back. The striking bug is easy to recognize in gardens due to its distinctive red and black coloration. The small red and black bug measures 0.4" (10 mm) long and can be found feeding on lime trees and mallow trees. Red and black firebugs are not dangerous because they don't bite humans or harm trees. However, hordes of creeping crawlies in homes can become a nuisance. Red firebugs invade homes in the fall to overwinter in warmer places. If you crush them, red firebugs cause a nasty stench, and the smell may attract other insects. Additionally, the red color can leave a stain on clothing and carpets. If you find them in your home, vacuuming them is usually the best solution to get rid of them. Red and Black Bug Identification The firebug has an easily identifiable red oval body with two striking black dots and two black triangles on its back. In addition, the red bug has black legs and two black antennae. Mediterranean Red Bug (Scantius aegyptius) The Mediterranean red bug is very similar to firebug and both belong to the family Pyrrhocoridae, but the firebug has 2 extra tiny black dots The Mediterranean red bug is a brightly colored insect with an orange-red body and striking black markings. This seed-feeding red bug is difficult to tell apart from the firebug. The Mediterranean red bug has two black spots and a black triangular hourglass marking contrasting with the reddish-orange color on its back. The Mediterranean red bug measures 0.27" to 0.35" (7 – 9 mm), and the invasive black and red bug is common in California. The immature bugs are generally entirely red and develop black spots as they mature. Red and Black Bug Identification To identify the Mediterranean red bug, look for two black spots and a large black hourglass marking on a red-orange elongated oval body. Red and Black Blister Beetle (Meloidae) The red and black blister beetle (Mylabris quadripunctata) has a black head and red body with black round spots Some species of blister beetles are red insects with black spots covered in fine hairs. For example, the Mylabris quadripunctata beetle has a slender, bright red body with two rows of black dots and black markings at its tail. In addition, the red beetle has a small round black thorax and a small black head. Red and black blister beetles measure 0.4" to 0.8" (10 – 20 mm) long. They usually feed on insects and insect eggs and may also feed on flowers and leaves, causing some damage. Blister beetles get their name from the poisonous liquid contained in their bodies. This can cause skin irritation and blistering if you squash one of them and the secretion gets on your skin. Related reading: How to identify types of beetles. Red and Black Bug Identification Red and black blister beetles have bright red bodies with several black spots, six black legs, and two clubbed antennae. Desert Blister Beetle (Lytta magister) The desert blister beetle has reddish-orange head and black oval long body The desert blister beetle is a black bug with a red head, black and red legs, and filiform antennae. The large black and red beetle can measure between 0.6" and 1.3" (16 – 33 mm) and is common in California and the southwestern United States. The large beetles can also bite. The redheaded black blister beetle is commonly found in deserts, mainly feeding on brittlebush flowers. Like all blister beetles, the black and redheaded desert beetle exudes a yellowish, foul-smelling secretion that can cause a painful skin blister. Red and Black Bug Identification The desert blister beetle is easy to identify with its deep black body and shiny bright red head, red legs, and two antennae in a filiform shape. Cocklebur Weevil (Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus) The small cocklebur weevil has a small black head with long snout and black patterns on its red body The cocklebur weevil is a type of red and black bug with an identifiable black rounded snout, characteristic of all weevils. The red cocklebur weevil has an orange-red body, thorax, and a tiny black head. Identifiable black spots on its back contrast with its red-orange body. Red and black cocklebur weevils measure approximately 0.25" to 0.5" (6 – 13 mm) long. The tiny insects generally feed on cocklebur, ragweed, or thistle leaves. This species of red weevil, Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus, also goes by the name five-spotted billbug. Depending on the species, other types of red and black weevils can have more or fewer black dots on their red bodies. Red and Black Bug Identification The cocklebur weevil is easy to identify due to its dark orange to red body, black spots, black legs, a long black snout, and two geniculate antennae that look like they have joints. Bee Assassin Bug (Apiomerus crassipes) The black bee assassin is a flying bug with red markings on the sides of its body The bee assassin bug is a black bug with red markings along the sides of its abdomen. These dark-colored bugs have a triangular-shaped body, six black legs, and two thin, wiry antennae. Bee assassins are also flying bugs that go from plant to plant, hunting bees and wasps. Adult bee assassin bugs measure between 0.55" and 0.78" (14 – 20 mm) long. The black and red bugs are common throughout North America and are active from mid-spring until late fall. You will often find bee assassin bugs on pine trees. Red and Black Bug Identification The bee assassin bug is identified by its flattened body that is mostly black with reddish or orange margins, thick hairy legs, and thin antennae. Italian Striped Bug (Graphosoma italicum) The small Italian striped bug has a shield shaped body with alternating black and orange or red stripes The Italian striped bug is a striking black bug with orange-reddish stripes and a body in the shape of a shield. Also called the minstrel bug or harlequin bug, this small red and black striped bug has six black legs and thin, pointed antennae. The rounded bug measures between 0.31" and 0.47" (8 – 12 mm) long. There is no mistaking an Italian red and black striped bug if you find one in your garden. The bug can be found feeding under the umbrella-like flowers of plants in the family Apiaceae —parsley, carrot, celery, hemlock, and hogweed. The black and red stripes of the harlequin bug are a warning sign to predators. Red and Black Bug Identification The easily identifiable Italian striped bug is red with thick black stripes running longitudinally down its rounded, shield-shaped body. Two-Spotted Stink Bug (Cosmopepla conspicillaris) The two-spotted stink bug has a black shield shaped body with orange-red band and two black spots The two-spotted stink bug is a black bug with an orange-red band near its head and thin orange lines along its margins. The underside of this unusual shiny black bug is yellow with black stripes. The attractive black bug with its orange markings is a tiny bug that measures approximately 0.3" (8 mm) long. Other common names for the two-spotted stink bug refer to its unique red or orange speckled patterning. For example, it's called the happy bespectacled stink bug black bug. This refers to the red and black spectacle-like markings and the red or yellow semi-circle resembling a smile on its back. Red and Black Bug Identification The two-spotted stink bug is identified by its orange-red band that looks like a pair of colorful spectacles near its head. Other recognizable features of the stink bug are slender antennae, yellow markings on its belly, and a U-shaped bright marking on its back. Red and Black Ladybugs (Coccinellidae) The seven-spotted ladybird (Coccinella septempunctata) is common in Europe and was successfully introduced into states in the US Ladybugs are easily recognizable beetles due to their rounded red wing coverings with black spots. Red and black ladybugs measure between 0.04" and 0.4" (1 – 10 mm) long. The red bugs have wings and can swarm into buildings in the fall. Some types of ladybugs are yellow and black. Related reading: How to identify various types of ladybugs. Asian Lady Beetle (Harmonia axyridis) The Asian lady beetle is now becoming a pest in many countries The Asian lady beetle is an invasive species in North America in the ladybug family. The flying bugs can be red with black dots or black with red spots depending on the species. The small red and black adult beetles measure 0.2" to 0.3" (5 – 8 mm) long. Asian lady beetles look similar to native ladybugs but they bite and can cause allergic skin reactions. Black Clock Beetle (Pterostichus madidus) The black clock beetle has red legs with spines and black ridged body The black clock beetle is described as a black bug with red legs. Up close, pictures of the black beetle show its black and red legs have spines, and its shiny black abdomen is ridged. The black clock beetle measures 0.55" to 0.78" (14 – 20 mm) long and is found in gardens. Scarlet Lily Leaf Beetle (Lilioceris lilii) The scarlet lily leaf beetle is also called red lily beetle, or lily leaf beetle and is shiny red with black legs and antennae The scarlet lily beetle is a bright red leaf beetle with black head, legs and antennae that eats the leaves, stems and flowers of lilies and other plants from the family Liliaceae. Adult lily beetle measures about ¼–⅜ inch (6 to 9 mm) in length. Related articles: 15 Red and Black Bugs (Pictures) – Insect and Bug Identification was last modified: July 27th, 2023 by Jessica Nolan, Gardening Expert The United States is home to a vast ecosystem that is the home of various red and black bugs. Some of the most common species of bugs are black and red. Various types of ladybugs and other popular culture bugs are seen in black and red coloring. This color combination often acts to the benefit of the bugs which can be perceived as toxic by some of their predators. Almost all types of habitats in the US house various black and red bugs. From crops to meadows or woodlands, there are many territories these bugs live in. Velvet bugs, a type of mimicking red and black bugs also live in deserts. Some of the following black and red bugs are native to the US while others are imported and settled species. Asian Lady Beetle Asian Lady Beetles (Harmonia axyridis) are common black and red bugs in the United States. These bugs have been introduced to the country beginning in 1916. Asian Lady Beetles were first introduced to eat aphids which were eating vegetables on crops to a large extent. It took decades to establish the Asian Lady Beetle in North America. Asian Lady Beetles in Western North America have been introduced separately to those in Eastern North America. Its presence is widespread in the US today. This predatory species is identified by its dome-shaped body that grows between 5.5 and 8.5mm. Its elytra are black and it showcases up to 22 black spots. Seven-spotted Lady Beetle Seven-spotted Lady Beetles (Coccinella septempunctata) are slightly larger than Asian Lady Beetle.s These red and black bugs can grow to a size of up to 12.5 inches. While larger than the common Asian Lady Beetle, the Seven-spotted Lady Beetle is among the bugs that possess multiple protective tactics. Its red and black coloring makes some predators think it's poisonous. But this bug can even eliminate a liquid that makes them taste bad. Seven-spotted Lady Beetles may eventually play dead to escape immediate predation. These bugs are seen across North America and they are Europe's most common ladybird. Spotted Lanternfly The Spotted Lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) is among the imported species that quickly became a pest. This species is a known crop pest in multiple countries in Asia as it has been imported by accident from China. It's also a known pest in the US in its short history in North America. The Spotted Lanternfly is among the most common pests in Pennsylvania. The wings of this species change color as they mature. Their hind wings become red and the upper wings are covered in black spots in mature Spotted Lanterflies. The species has prompted multiple quarantines in the US to stop its spread. It's believed this black and red bug will not spread to Canada due to the colder weather in the North. Large Milkweed Bug Large Milkweed bugs (Oncopeltus fasciatus) feed on milkweed, as their name implies. These bugs are partially black with large red patches across the body. Large Milkweed bugs have a widespread North and Central American presence with a clear distinction in the habits the species has according to its range. Large Milkweed bugs in Northern states migrate. They move South in their migration. Southern Large Milkweed Bugs don't migrate. Both the Large Milkweed bugs in the North and those in the South can grow to a maximum size of 12mm. Convergent Lady Beetle Convergent Lady Beetles (Hippodamia convergens) have red elytra with black dots. These bugs have a black head with white stripes and margins. The species is one of the most common in the US. Most Convergent Lady beetles have been used in the control of aphids, especially aphids that eat vegetables. These bugs are predatory and feed on aphids to the point of extinction. Lady beetles of this genus can spend almost the entire year in a dormant state. They come out in the spring looking for sights where there are plenty of aphids. Convergent Lady beetles tend to live together and move for food together. Red Milkweed Beetle Red Milkweed Beetles (Tetraopes tetrophthalmus) are a common species of black and red bugs that aren't predators. This species is a herbivore which means it only eats plants, particularly plant sap. Red Milkweed beetles open the veins of plants to drink sap directly out of a plant. Milkweed plants are preferred by the colorful bugs. These bugs are very good at absorbing various plant toxins which gives them a protective bad taste. Red Milkweed beetles also differentiate themselves from other similar species by making specific noises in the presence of other bugs of the same species. You can find these bugs on milkweed as well as various dogbane species. Small Milkweed Bug Small Milkweed bugs (Lygaeus kalmii) are known to be fully red in their early life and then change to black and red or black and orange coloring. These bugs are also known to feed on milkweed, similar to the Red Milkweed beetle. The Small Milkweed bug can turn carnivorous and eat other insects in the absence of milkweed. Common in North America, the species doesn't migrate. It emerges in the spring when new adults look to mate immediately. Males and females can spend up to 24 hours together in the mating process. There's no mating season in the species as mating occurs throughout the year. The bug is further common in Central America and Europe. Common Eastern Firefly The Common Eastern Firefly (Photinus pyralis) is known for having an orange-red head and black wings with orange-red margins. There's a small black mark on the head of the bug. Its legs and long antennae are all-black. As its name implies, this is a species that produces light or glow on the tip of its abdomen. Even the eggs of the Common Eastern Firefly have a light glow. This species is known for its capacity to fly but only among males. The glow, capacity to fly, and the tendency of males to stick together can sometimes make these bugs visible when flying at night. Spotted Pink Ladybeetle The Spotted Pink Ladybeetle (Coleomegilla maculata) can have a red, yellow, or pink body with black dots. 6 black dots are seen on each wing of the species. Spotted Pink Ladybeetles are predators and eat aphids. They are only seen on crops and other areas where there are numerous aphids to feed on. This species tends to favor certain crops. Soybean and alfalfa crops are known to attract aphids. Corn, peas, and beans are also types of crops that attract high numbers of aphids and high numbers of Spotted Pink ladybeetles. These bugs aren't pests and their beneficial role in agriculture is recognized. This means some crops aren't even treated with chemicals against aphids as long as there are Spotted Pink Ladybeetle populations around. Eastern Boxelder Bug Eastern Boxelder bugs (Boisea trivittata) have a red and black elongated body. These bugs eat the leaves of various trees and they also lay eggs on ash and maple trees. The Eastern Boxelder bug feeds on the seeds of boxelder and ash trees. Bugs of this genus are not seen as agricultural pests. The inflicted damage to trees is minimal. Some damage might be seen on nearby fruit trees and their ripe fruits in the fall. However, this damage isn't threatening the health of the trees. These bugs don't carry any diseases or parasites that could affect trees either. Furthermore, their populations are high as Eastern Boxelder bugs don't have many predators due to their bad taste. Western Boxelder Bug Western Boxelder Bugs (Boisea rubrolineata) have a black and gray body with red stripes. This is the Western US species of the Boxelder bug which feeds on boxelder trees. Also known for its elongated body that narrows towards the head, this species is dependent on boxelder trees for its survival. Nymphs and adults feed on the seeds of the tree. Adults are highly resilient and survive winters if they can escape indoors. Most adult Western Boxelder bugs survive winters in homes, barns, garages, or other sheltered structures where they enter a state of inactivity or hibernation. Red-shouldered Bug Native to North and South America, the Red-shouldered bug (Jadera haematoloma) is now also found in Asia. This species is almost completely black with only 2 short red stripes on the base of its wings. These red stripes inspire its name. The bug is known to feed on the seeds of vine balloon vine. It can pierce these seeds with its elongated mouthparts. These bugs are larger than many types of red and black ladybugs found in North America as they can grow up to a size of 13.5mm. The uniform black color of the Red-shouldered bug often makes people confuse the species with one of the multiple Boxelder bugs in the US. Milkweed Assassin Bug This red and black bug (Zelus longipes) is native to North America. It's also native to most countries in South America. Its presence is signaled around agricultural fields where it has a biocontrol agent role. This is a common species that hunt caterpillars, especially the caterpillars of moths that eat corn. Living on corn fields across North America, the Milkweed Assassin bug is one of the black and red species that can eat adult moths as well. A preference for caterpillars is specific to Milkweed Assassin bugs since caterpillars are easier to catch as they cannot fly. This type of bug has a widespread presence in Southeastern US corn crops. False Milkweed Bug Commonly confused with other species, the False Milkweed bug (Lygaeus turcicus) is found in Eastern US states. You can correctly identify the species by its black body and either red or yellow stripes. These stripes cover its wings and the head. The False Milkweed bug feeds on false sunflower. The name of the species can also confuse some people who expect it to be a major bug of a milkweed host. The False Milkweed bug is mostly interested in false sunflower and flowers of the aster family in the Eastern US. Twice-stabbed Stink Bug The Twice-stabbed stink bug (Cosmopepla lintneriana) is one of the most common black and red stink bugs. It can be identified by its shield-like body shape. This species of bug has 2 red dots on its dorsum which inspire its name. A contrasting red stripe is also visible behind its head. The species of bugs are mostly found on milk thistle but they can hurt crops as they can also find other hosts. Alternative hosts for the Twice-stabbed Stink bug include oats and mint plants. This shiny black and red bug is small compared to other stink bugs as it grows to a maximum size of 6.5mm. White-crossed Seed Bug The White-crossed Seed bug (Neacoryphus bicrucis) is black and red and not white. It only has an X-shaped white mark across its dorsum which acts as delimitation for its black and red zones. The White-crossed Seed bug is a native North and South American species. This bug has an elongated oval shape and can be found in many open fields across the US at various altitudes. It's often seen on sunflower-daisy flowers as these are its favorite host plants. The species can also feed on other flowers in Asia and Oceania. Mediterranean Red Bug The Mediterranean Red bug (Scantius aegyptius) is a common migrating red and black bug in the US. Its populations migrate whenever the weeds they feed on in one area start to die. Mediterranean Red bugs are commonly seen feeding on knotweed. This is why they are seen in high numbers in Southern California. These black and red bugs live together. They live in groups of up to a few thousand individuals. Mediterranean Red bugs also migrate in their thousands so many farmers might wonder about protective action for their crops when seeing them flying. However, these bugs only care for knotweed and other herbs that don't grow on crops. Florida Predatory Stink Bug Florida Predatory Stink bugs (Euthyrhynchus floridanus) are some of the red and black species that live in confined areas of North America. This type of bug is among the common multicolored stink bugs. It has a base black color with orange spots and green sections on its dorsum. Seeing a Florida Predatory Stink bug is considered a joyful event as these bugs eat pests. They feed on a wide range of crop pests as they are carnivorous. A swift change of dietary habits is seen in this species in the absence of its bug pests. It moves on to grasshoppers and other smaller insects that aren't pests. Eastern Bloodsucking Conenose The Eastern Bloodsucking Conenose (Triatoma sanguisuga) is one of the larger black and red or black and orange bugs in the US. It grows up to a size of 21mm and it's known for biting. This species sucks the blood of humans and it may spread Chagas disease. Asa a type of kissing bug, the Eastern Bloodsucking Conenose sucks blood around the mouth while you sleep. The species doesn't defecate while feeding such as other kissing bugs which means it's less likely to spread bacteria and viruses. Only a handful of Chagas disease causes like the Eastern bloodsucking Conenose have been reported in the United States given the nature of this bug. Charcoal Seed Bug The Charcoal Seed bug (Melacoryphus lateralis) is a common species of black and red bugs in the Western United States. Bugs of this genus have red stripes along the sides of the body as well as red marks behind the head. The bugs may also have some type of gray coloring on the wings which is why they are also known as Charcoal bugs. You can see these types of bugs across dry and desert scrubland across Western North America. European Firebug European Firebugs (Pyrrhocoris apterus) are present in Europe, North America, and Asia. They have an expanding habitat and are often seen across multiple tree species. These red and black bugs are often confused with similar squash bugs. The body is mostly black with red vertical, diagonal, and horizontal stripes as in squash bugs. The genus is easy to see as a nymph as this is when young European Firebugs congregate. Bugs of this genus do not grow alone as they use a primitive form of living in colonies as a defense tactic since they are less likely to be seen as prey whenever they live in groups. California Lady Beetle This beetle (Coccinella californica) is mostly found in California. Its limited range is what inspires its California Lady beetle name. This is a type of red and black lady beetle. The elytra have a uniform red color which sometimes appears rusty-red. 2 white spots are seen at the base of the wings. The thorax of the species is black with further large and small white dots. The reduced size of the white dots makes this bug appear mostly black and red. Known for its predatory behavior, the California Lady beetle isn't a species that lives in all areas of California. It prefers coastal regions of the state. Shiny Flea Beetle (Asphaera lustrans) The Shiny Flea Beetle (Asphaera lustrans) has inverse colors compared to the California Lady beetle. A red head and thorax and black elytra are specific to the Shiny Flea beetle. This species is native to the Extreme South of the United States. It lives in states such as Arizona and Florida where it can be seen almost all year. Mint herbs are among the most common host plants of the Shiny Flea beetle. The best chance of seeing this bug and its all-red caterpillar is to look for skullcap plants. These are a type of wild mint found in Southern US habitats. Master Blister Beetle Master Blister Beetles (Lytta magister) have a red upper body and black wings. Apart from their contrasting colors, Master Blister beetles are mostly known for their impact on bee hives as larvae. The larvae of Master Blister Beetles are insectivorous as it feeds on bees, but mostly on the provisions of bees. Bee nests are a major target for the species which initially lays its eggs in the ground next to bee nests. Deserts such as The Mojave Desert are among the favorites of the species. Adult Master Blister Beetles then move on to eating flowers and flower leaves. Brittlebush replaces bees and bee provisions as food for adults. Cocklebur Weevil Cocklebur Weevils (Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus) feed on cocklebur stems. These weevils also eat ragweed and ragweed roots. The species is known to attack many types of plants that are related to the sunflower. Like other weevils, they use an elongated snout to eat through the stems of these plants or to consume the fine roots of the plants. You can identify the species by its mostly red body with black dots. These bugs have all-black legs. Weevils of this genus are rather small, rarely reaching a size of 0.5 inches. Unlike other weevils, they can bore into the ground after plant leaves which means they can kill or stunt growth for many plants of the sunflower genus. Eurasian Red-and-black Melyrid Eurasian Red-and-black Melyrid bugs (Anthocomus equestris) are an introduced species that are sometimes found indoors or on crops. This species isn't a pest as it feeds on various bugs. Some of the bugs it feeds on are pests either in homes or on crops which makes the species beneficial. Its presence signals the presence of pest bugs in the area. You can identify this bug with its black and red body. It has a black prothorax and red spiny antennae. The species is most abundant in the area of Virginia but it has spread throughout multiple other states as well. This species can be pure red and black in some areas and rust-red and black in other parts of the country. Red-banded Fungus Beetle Red-banded Fungus Beetles (Megalodacne fasciata) are native to North America. The species has a shiny body where black and red are the base colors. Its black body is covered in red bands with further black dots on the upper band close to the prothorax. The head of these bugs is all-black. Bugs of the genus feed on various plant leaves and they also eat fungus-affected leaves. This can make them a beneficial species but their eating habits are on a small scale to positively impact fungus growth on crops. These bugs don't bite animals or people and can be removed by hand when found inside the house. Two-lined Spittlebug The Two-lined Spittlebug (Prosapia bicincta) is native to the US and possibly to Central America. It has a black body with either orange or red bands on the wings. Bugs of this genus feed on very specific trees and shrubs and this means they have a limited range. Adults and nymphs have their feeding preferences which means they aren't seen on the same host. The Two-lined Spittlebug nymph is seen on various grasses. It can even invade lawns and gardens with many decorative types of grass. Bugs of this genus are known to switch their diet towards small trees as adults. They feed on holly and eastern redbud trees as adults. Spotless Lady Beetle These types of ladybirds (Cycloneda sanguinea) are found in Southern US territories. They live in vast habitats of Central and South America as well. A red-brown dome-shaped elytra is specific to the Spotless Lady beetle, as is a black and white head. This species might be small but it's a very common predator. Even its larvae can bite and bugs stay away from it. Adult Spotless Lady beetles mostly feed on aphids. They establish themselves along plants that are known aphid hosts such as milkweed. While also seen on other flowers and plants, the Spotless Lady beetle mainly targets aphids that don't feed on crops but that still feed on other plants. Harlequin Bug The Harlequin Bug (Murgantia histrionica) is a known cabbage pest in warm areas of North America. This species is found on cabbages and all other related species of the genus. You can identify them by their black body with red stripes that also exhibit black spots to make them look poisonous. The Harlequin bug has very specific mating strategies. This bug even migrates as a mating strategy. Female Harlequin bugs mate with many males before laying eggs. Competition between males is high. This is why many Harlequin bugs tend to migrate to other areas and plants where they can find females without as many males around. Common Lovebug Common Lovebugs (Plecia nearctica) are some of the most popular black and red bugs in North America. This species has 2 flights (3 in Florida) where most drivers see them as spatter problems on vehicles as they're attracted to lights at night. Common Lovebugs are primarily known for their atypical mating habits. Male and female remain together for up to a few days since mating. They even fly attached one to another. These bugs aren't pests and may be considered mildly beneficial as they eat decaying plant matter. The larvae of the Common Lovebug feed on decaying plants. Freshly dead and still moist plants are preferred by the larvae of these bugs. Reticulated Net-winged Beetle The Reticulated Net-winged Beetle (Calopteron reticulatum) is known for its ridged wings which can have either orange or red bands. This species is only active early in the morning or late in the evening but it has a beneficial role similar to the role of the Common Lovebug larvae. It feeds on decaying plant matter. Found around forests as well as in open areas in forests, this bug is primarily focused on finding moist dead plants to feed on in the morning or just before nightfall. Adult females also use decaying plant matter to lay eggs. A preference for decaying trees for egg-laying has been noted for the Reticulated Net-winged beetle. Squash Vine Borer Moth This type of moth (Melittia cucurbitae) is one that's often taken as a wasp or a bee. It has black and red coloring with black wings. The species is considered a pest on many crops such as zucchini crops. Its lifecycle begins on the leaves of squash or zucchini. As it grows, it begins to eat the stem of these plants and vegetables essentially killing them. Chemical action needs to be taken against the Squash Vine Borer moth. Pesticides are known to keep the species away for almost an entire summer season. Cinnabar Moth The Cinnabar Moth (Tyria jacobaeae) has a black and red body. Alternating black and red triangular shapes are seen across its body and wings. This type of moth feeds on pollen but its larvae feed on plants and can even turn cannibalistic. A high rate of cannibalism among the larvae of the Cinnabar moth leads to a low survival rate for this species. Once the small number of survival caterpillars pupate into adults they move on to other plants for nectar and pollen. Ragwort is the most common source of pollen for the native Cinnabar moth. Dark Paper Wasp The Dark Paper Wasp (Polistes fuscatus) has a red-brown, black, and yellow color. This common species of wasp is seen in many wooded areas of North America. It uses wood to create and maintain its nests. Woodlands are a common home for the species that collect wood for its nest daily. Dark Paper wasps are social wasps. They live in colonies and a dominant female queen Dark Paper wasps leads the colony and the workers. While not at the same hierarchy level, many foundress wasps work together with the Dark Paper wasp queen to run the nest. Great Golden Digger Wasp The Great Golden Digger Wasp (Sphex ichneumoneus) is one of the common red and black wasps in the US. This species can sometimes show white, off-white, or yellow coloring and yellow hairs as well. Wasps of this genus are diggers which means they create underground nests. Great Golden Digger wasps dig nests in the ground to lay a single egg and a paralyzed insect. Females catch and paralyze insects which are then added to the ground and covered up for the emerging Great Golden Digger larvae to feed on. You can find these nests in clusters as many female Great Golden Digger wasps prefer to dig their nests next to other existing nests. Common Eastern Velvet Ant The Common Eastern Velvet Ant (Dasymutilla occidentalis) has vivid red and black coloring. This furry-looking is found in many Southern areas of North America. Most notably, Common Eastern Velvet ants are known for their painful sting. This sting is so painful that there was a legend its pain can kill an adult cow. Common Eastern Velvet ants are parasitic when it comes to nesting. They use existing wasp nests to lay their egg but they first kill the egg they find in the original nests. Eastern Cicada killer nests are commonly used by the Common Eastern Velvet ant to lay eggs. Pacific Velvet Ant The Pacific Velvet Ant (Dasymutilla aureola) resembles the Common Eastern Velvet ant. It has a brown or brow-red and black body without wings and the ability to fly. This species is known to mimic ants and it can only move on the ground and not fly like wasps. The Pacific Velvet ant is one of the most common velvet ants found in coastal regions of California. This parasitic species are diurnal. It can sometimes be seen in arid areas while feeding on various plants and young trees. You should not handle the Pacific Velvet ant as its long stinger can deliver a painful sting. Swift Feather-legged Fly The Swift Feather-legged male fly (Trichopoda pennipes) is either red and black or orange and black. The species is native to the US where it feeds on plants. The larvae of the Swift Feather-legged fly are parasitoid. It feeds on many types of bugs such as squash bugs. Adults of the species only eat nectar. They tend to stay in the same areas squash bugs and other types of bugs live as they share the same host plant at times. Adults continue feeding on various plants while laying eggs on top of the eggs of various bugs such as stink bugs and other species known for also feeding on squash. Shiny Acrobat Ant. Image by Annika Lindqvist via inaturalist Shiny Acrobat Ants (Crematogaster laeviuscula) are common across many countries and they are mostly known to eat wasps. These types of ants are found both indoors and outdoors. You can even find large numbers of Shiny Acrobat ants indoors as they tend to hind behind walls and in other dark areas. The Shiny Acrobat ant is one of the species that settle in homes or next to homes where it finds suitable food to survive on. In many cases, the Shiny Acrobat ant can be found next to homes. It builds nests up on trees where it can multiply into very large colonies. Twice-Stabbed Lady Beetle Twice-stabbed Lady Beetles (Chilocorus stigma) are only black and red in coloring. They have a black body with 2 red dots which makes them look like they've been stabbed. These bugs are small but predatory. They feed on aphids, mealybugs, and other types of invasive woodland bugs they can find in states such as Florida. The status of the species gives them the privilege of being seen as beneficial as they are often used against invasive bug species instead of using pesticides. Twice-stabbed Lady beetles tend to emerge in the same location the following year. It overwinters in the ground. Two-lined Leatherwing Two-lined Leatherwings (Atalantycha bilineata) are also common in forests, just like the Twice-stabbed Lady beetle. Bugs of this genus have gray to brown wings and a brown to red underside. Two-lined Leatherwing bugs are a beneficial pollinator in woodlands. They don't feed on pollen but they spread pollen as they look to eat insects that feed on pollen. The species gets its name from its soft leather-like wings. Pigeon Horntail Pigeon Horntails (Tremex columba) have red-brown, black, and yellow coloring. This large species is known to grow up to a size of 2 inches. It can often be seen indoors but it also lives outdoors, especially in wood. Pigeon Horntails lay eggs in wood, especially in softwood. Emerging larvae and even the pupa of the Pigeon Hornatial further feeds on wood. End Band Net-winged Beetle The End Band Net-winged Beetle (Calopteron terminale) is also known to lay eggs in wood, just as the Pigeon Horntail. These red and black or red and orange bugs are seen across Northeastern US territories. Pigeon Horntails grow in dead trees or under the bark of dead trees. They feed on various insects attracted to dead trees. This bug is known for its deep wing grooves and its long thick black antennae. Pale-bordered Field Cockroach These types of roaches (Pseudomops septentrionalis) only live outdoors. They feed on various types of plants. You can identify the species by its elongated body which is mostly around 0.5 inches long. The wings of the species are black. Its head is brown with off-white margins. The legs and antennae of the Pale-bordered Field cockroach are all-black. Pleasing Fungus Beetle The Pleasing Fungus Beetle (Megalodacne heros) is a species of bug common on trees. Bugs of this genus feed and lay eggs on the fungus that grows on many trees. This species is seen on trees such as maple, redbug, and water oak. Pleasing Fungus beetles are difficult to spot as they often move under tree bark. Adult Pleasing Fungus beetles are also nocturnal which makes for rare sightings. As the name of the species implies, these bugs feed on fungi but they only affect trees that are already far from healthy. Tiny black bugs resembling poppy seeds are annoying pests that can invade indoor spaces. The tiny black insects, mites, and bugs can infest foodstuffs, furniture, houseplants, and pantries. These minuscule creatures are not just pesky unwanted visitors. Some small black bugs can cause a nasty bite and spread disease. Identifying tiny black bugs that are about the size of poppy seeds can be challenging. In most cases, their tiny size means it is almost impossible to spot a single bug independently. And if you spot a cluster of black poppy seed-sized bugs, you must deal with a large infestation. Getting rid of black bugs that look like tiny dark specks can be difficult. Typically vacuuming the pesky, nano-sized pests is the most effective eradication method. Additionally, thoroughly cleaning areas of your home where tiny dark-colored bugs can be lurking is crucial. This process helps kill eggs to prevent further infestations and disinfect surfaces from potential bacterial spread. This article helps you recognize the identifying features of tiny black bugs that resemble poppy seeds. Descriptions and pictures of these small insects will help determine if you have an infestation problem. You will also get tips on how to get rid of minuscule black bugs. What Are Tiny Black Bugs? Tiny black bugs refer to small, dark brown or black creatures ranging in size from a pinhead to the size of a poppy seed. Some examples of small black bugs include fleas, ticks, black ants, bed bugs, and aphids. In scientific terms, small black bugs belong to the insect order Hemiptera. These creatures have piercing mouthparts to bite plant tissue or human or animal skin. However, most people refer to all small annoying black insects as bugs, even though they are not bugs in the true sense of the word. This article will refer to all types of black insects as bugs, regardless of whether they are true. How to Identify Tiny Black Bugs To identify a tiny black bug, observe its shape and size and check whether it has legs, wings, or a hard shell. However, some of these bugs are so tiny you may require a microscope to identify their specific characteristics, making correct identification difficult. Let's explore in detail the unique identifying features of tiny black bugs that resemble dark specks like poppy seeds. Fleas (Siphonaptera) A close up picture of a flea (35x zoom optical microscope) Fleas are small, wingless parasitic dark-colored insects resembling black poppy seeds. Although they look brown under a microscope, fleas commonly appear black to the naked eye. They have a flattened body shape and long hind legs they use to jump long distances. Fleas grow 0.12" (3 mm) long. Fleas commonly infest cats, dogs, and other animals. The tiny seed-like creatures feed on the blood of their hosts, causing itchiness and discomfort. In addition to pets, fleas can bite humans, leaving behind itchy red bumps. You will usually find fleas in bedding, carpeting, and furniture. Flea infestations are difficult to eliminate because the blackish-brown bugs are so tiny. Apart from the annoying, itchy bites, fleas also spread disease. Therefore, getting rid of fleas is crucial. How to get rid of tiny black bugs The CDC recommends treating pets regularly for fleas to prevent an infestation in your home. It's also vital to thoroughly clean areas where fleas breed—bedding, rugs, and pet bedding. Also, vacuuming carpeted areas and along baseboards is crucial to eradicating the tiny bugs. Ticks (Ixodida) Tick nymphs are tiny black bugs that look like poppy seeds Baby ticks, commonly known as nymph ticks, are small parasitic bugs resembling dark specks, similar to black poppy seeds. These tiny parasitic bugs, also called seed ticks, survive by feeding on the blood of animals and humans. They have a distinctive brown or black flattened, oval-shaped body with eight legs. Upon reaching adulthood, adult ticks grow to a length of 0.12" to 0.20" (3 – 5 mm). Adult black-legged male tick (left) is smaller and black, whereas the female (right) is black and brown Ticks get into the home by attaching themselves to their host for extended periods. The disease-carrying bugs lurk in wooded areas, tall grasses, and shrubs. They latch onto their host (animals or humans) by burrowing their mouthparts into the skin and enjoying a blood meal where they become engorged. Ticks transmit diseases like Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Therefore, preventing ticks from getting on your skin when enjoying the outdoors is vital. To identify ticks, look for a tiny black bug stuck to the skin resembling a tiny black seed or mole. They may also appear engorged after feeding. How to get rid of tiny black bugs It is important to remove ticks properly to avoid leaving any mouthparts behind, as this can increase the risk of infection. Doctors recommend tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. Then, gently lift the tick upward to remove it from your or your pet's skin. According to the CDC, you should see your doctor if you develop a rash or fever in the weeks following a tick bite. Black Bean Aphid (Aphis fabae) Black bean aphids on the underside of a leaf look like poppy seeds or black sesame seeds Black aphids, measuring approximately 0.07 inches (2 mm) in length bear a striking resemblance to minuscule poppy seeds. Commonly known as blackflies, these small insects feature a black pear-shaped and plump body with a minute head and rounded abdomen. They have yellowish legs with black tips. Some black aphids also fly, meaning the bugs can infest houseplants and greenhouse crops. A close up picture of black bean aphids and tiny aphid nymphs The black bugs bite into plant tissue to suck the juices. A large black aphid infestation can weaken a plant's health and eventually cause death. Additionally, the black plant-destroying bugs transmit plant diseases. Signs of black bugs attacking plants are an amber-colored sticky substance called honeydew and black sooty molds on leaves and stems. You may also notice tiny black seed-like bugs under the plant's leaves. Infested plants usually have wilting stems and slow growth. How to get rid of tiny black bugs To eliminate black bugs like aphids, create a neem oil bug spray. You can make the natural insecticide by adding 2 tsp. of organic neem oil to a quart (1 l) of water and a small amount of liquid soap in a spray bottle. Mix the solution thoroughly. Then spray liberally on plant foliage to kill the tiny speck-like black bugs. Related reading: How to kill aphids naturally. Elder Aphid (Aphis sambuci) A close up picture of elder aphids and tiny aphid nymphs infesting a plant Infestations of black elder aphids look like large clusters of poppy seeds on plant branches. The tiny black bugs are dark green to black, only measuring 0.07" to 0.13" (2 – 3.5 mm) long. The black-colored aphids have black legs and whitish bands on their abdominal segments. However, the black bugs are just like dark specks. Therefore, they are so tiny you need a magnifying lens or microscope to see their identification characteristics. They are also difficult to differentiate from regular black aphids or blackfly. Flea Beetles (Alticini) Metallic blue flea beetles (Alticini) chew on a leaf Tiny black bugs that look like poppy seeds could be flea beetles. These hard-shelled black bugs are typically black with a metallic sheen on their bodies. A distinguishing feature of the beetles is their large, powerful hind legs that give them the ability to jump like fleas. The black beetles have a narrow, elongated body measuring 0.1" (2.5 mm) in length. Many people classify black flea beetles as bugs because they attack many crop leaves, and their larvae chew on roots. Thankfully, the tiny black bugs tend to stay out of homes, preferring to feed on cruciferous plants. Identifying flea beetles can be challenging because they look like tiny specks or poppy seeds. However, if you notice tiny seed-like black bugs jumping on plants, they will likely be flea beetles. Also, some flea beetles have black and white stripes, red heads, or brown bodies. How to get rid of tiny black bugs Diatomaceous earth (DE) is an effective, non-toxic solution to eliminate many types of tiny black bugs. Apply diatomaceous earth on dry ground around your ornamental plants and crops and sprinkle it on plant foliage. The abrasive substance destroys the beetle's exoskeletons, causing them to dehydrate and die. The DE must be replaced after rainfall and applied only to dry ground. Additionally, you can control flea beetles naturally by introducing beneficial insects, such as ladybugs and lacewings, in greenhouses. Black Mites (Acari) An image of a clover mite (Bryobia praetiosa) with sewing needle Black mites can look like a dusting of black pepper. The tiny black bugs measure less than 0.04" (1 mm)—about the same size as poppy seeds. The identifying features of individual black mites are almost impossible to distinguish. However, some mites, like scabies and other black mites, colonize human skin and cause severe itching and red patches. Clover mites (Bryobia praetiosa) are a type of oval-shaped dark red bug that appears black with the naked eye. They can enter the home through open windows and doors. These dark red-brown bugs are also types of pesky bugs that you can find on windowsills. Although they don't bite humans, clover mites are a nuisance when large numbers infest homes. How to get rid of tiny black bugs If you have red clover mites inside your home, use a vacuum cleaner to eliminate them. This approach ensures you don't crush the mites, which can lead to stains on your carpets, drapes, or upholstery. After vacuuming the red bugs, dispose of the dust bag in the outdoor trash. To prevent tiny black bugs from infesting your home, create a 2 ft. (0.6 m) gap between your building and shrubs or grass. Bed Bugs (Cimex) Enlarged picture of a bed bug – The tiny brown bed bugs look black but are actually brown Bed bugs are tiny dark brown, black-looking bugs that range in size from poppy seeds to apple seeds. The parasitic bugs have a flat, oval body and can grow 0.16" to 0.20" (4 – 5 mm). The nasty blood-sucking bugs swell and turn blackish-red after a blood meal. Bed bug eggs, measuring around 0.04" (1 mm) in length, share a striking resemblance to tiny poppy seeds, albeit in a pearly-white color. These eggs appear as small clusters of white speckles or white sesame seeds attached to various surfaces, such as bed frames, the back of headboards, or baseboards. How to get rid of tiny black bugs Getting rid of bed bugs is challenging. It requires a combination of thorough cleaning and professional insecticide treatments. Additionally, you can steam-clean, soft furnishings and upholstery to kill the tiny black bugs and their eggs. Black Spider Beetle (Mezium americanum) Black spider beetle (Mezium americanum) Black spider beetle babies are easily mistaken for poppy seeds. The adult spider beetles have a dark reddish-brown to shiny black body. They have easily recognizable bright orange legs and an orange head. The tiny black beetles grow 0.06" to 0.14" (1.5 – 3.5 mm) long. Also called the American spider beetle, the tiny black insects are called bugs because they infest seeds, dried fruits, cereals, herbs, and spices. This behavior makes the minuscule black bugs serious pantry pests. How to get rid of tiny black bugs To get rid of American spider beetles, remove infested items from your pantry. Next, vacuum all cracks and crevices to eliminate any eggs or tiny beetle babies. Then, store food in airtight jars or containers. Black Gnats (Sciaridae) Gants are small black flying bugs that can be found in damp places in the house Black gnats are tiny black flies that can be as small as black poppy seeds or as large as fruit flies. Growing between 0.04" and 0.43" (1 – 11 mm) long, fungus gnats are slender flying insects, typically with black or dark brown bodies. The dark-winged fungus gnats have black legs, a tiny head, and black wings. These annoying flies typically live in the moist soil of houseplants. They are attracted to light and are often seen flying indoors near windows. Several dead black gnats can look like a scattering of poppy seeds on a windowsill. The tiny black flies don't harm plants or bite humans. How to get rid of tiny black bugs It's vital to reduce the moisture in the soil to get rid of fungus gnats for good. The best way to do this is by allowing the top layer of soil to dry out before watering your plants. Remove any decaying plant debris and dispose of it in a sealed bag. You can also rinse the soil with a hydrogen peroxide solution. Mix one part hydrogen peroxide (3%) with four parts water and apply it to the soil to kill the gnats and their larvae. Related reading: How to water houseplants. Black Carpet Beetles (Attagenus unicolor) The black carpet beetle is a tiny seed-like bug that infests carpets and fabrics in the house Black carpet beetles are small, oval-shaped bugs with shiny black or dark brown bodies. The small black bugs typically measure 0.13" to 0.19" (3 – 5 mm) long, making them about the size and shape of black sesame seeds. Black carpet beetle larvae are small, hairy, and carrot-shaped, ranging in color from light brown to black. The larvae of black carpet beetles can do tremendous damage. They chew on fabrics and can be a nuisance in homes, feeding on various organic materials, including carpets, furniture, and clothing. Identifying black carpet beetles can help determine the most effective control measures to prevent infestations and further damage. How to get rid of tiny black bugs The best way to get rid of black carpet beetles for good is to keep fabrics in the home clean. For example, thoroughly laundering in hot water or dry cleaning clothes, blankets, and other washable items kills carpet beetles at all life cycle stages. Black Weevils Rice weevils (Sitophilus oryzae) Many black weevils are common tiny black or dark brown bugs resembling poppy seeds. Black weevils that invade homes are easy to identify. They are generally small, black or dark brown, with elongated snouts, pear-shaped bodies, and hard exoskeletons. The tiny black bugs enter homes through cracks in windows or doors. Black weevils can be found in various habitats, including gardens, fields, and forests. They feed on various plants, including strawberries, trees, and shrubs. Many black weevils in the home are generally only nuisance bugs as they don't bite or sting humans or spread disease. How to get rid of tiny black bugs One of the best ways to prevent black weevils from entering your home is to seal off any cracks and crevices around windows and doors. Some say chopping fresh bay leaves and placing them on pantry shelves helps repel these tiny black bugs in kitchens. Black Pantry Bugs Black pantry bugs are generally tiny beetles or weevils that look like dark brown or black poppy seeds. These pests get their name from their habit of infesting dry, stored foodstuffs. You can find them in packets of seeds, grains, cereals, flour, rice, pasta, and pet food. Here is a list of common pantry bugs easily mistaken for black poppy or sesame seeds: Sawtoothed grain beetles (Oryzaephilus surinamensis) Sawtoothed grain beetles are tiny bugs in the pantry that range in color from rusty brown to dark brown Black spider beetles Rice weevil (Sitophilus oryzae) Drugstore Beetle (Stegobium paniceum) Drugstore Beetle (Stegobium paniceum) Flea beetles Black grain mites How to get rid of tiny black bugs The best way to get rid of pantry bugs is to detect and locate them early. Check your food items regularly for signs of infestation, such as small holes or webbing. Discard any items in a sealed plastic bag in the trash outside your home. Also, clean shelves, cracks, and crevices with a vacuum cleaner. Then wipe countertops and shelves with a cloth soaked in soapy water. It's also a good idea to store all food items, including pet food, in airtight containers or sealable plastic bags. You can also place dried foodstuffs in the freezer for four to five days to kill eggs, larvae, and bugs that may be in packaging. Related articles: Tiny Black Bugs That Look Like Poppy Seeds (With Pictures) – Identification Guide was last modified: July 25th, 2023 by Jessica Nolan, Gardening Expert Many red and black bugs use bright colors to warn predators and protect themselves.Some red and black bugs, like assassin bugs, help gardens by eating harmful insects.Other red and black bugs, such as the cotton stainer, can harm plants and need control. When you're a small bug in a big world, you'll use every trick in the book to avoid being eaten. Many insects use bright colors to warn predators to avoid them. If you spend even a short time observing the insects in your backyard, you'll quickly notice red and black bugs are abundant. While lady beetles are probably the best known red and black bugs, there are hundreds of red and black true bugs (Hemiptera), and many share similar markings that make them tough to identify. The 10 red and black bugs in this list represent some of the true bugs that gardeners and naturalists might encounter and wish to identify. Some are beneficial predators, like assassin bugs, while others are plant pests that might warrant control measures. Katja Schulz / Flickr / CC by 2.0 The cotton stainer, Dysdercus suturellus, is a pretty bug that does ugly damage to certain plants, including cotton. Both adults and nymphs feed on the seeds in cotton bolls and stain the cotton an undesirable brownish-yellow in the process. Before the advent of chemical controls for this crop pest, the cotton stainer caused serious economic damage to the industry. Unfortunately, the cotton stainer doesn't limit its attention to cotton plants. This red bug (that's the actual name for the family, Pyrrhocoridae) damages everything from oranges to hibiscus. Its U.S. range is limited to mainly to southern Florida. Louis Tedders / USDA Agricultural Research Service / Bugwood.org Stink bugs are also true bugs, and can usually be recognized by their characteristic shape. Like all true bugs, stink bugs have mouthparts designed for piercing and sucking their food. What they eat, however, varies a great deal. Some stink bugs are plant pests, while others are predators of other insects and therefore considered beneficial. One of the more striking species of stink bugs, the two-spotted stink bug (Perillus bioculatus) is identified by its bold and distinctive markings. The two-spotted stink bug isn't always red and black, but even in its less brilliant color forms, it can be identified by the presence of two spots just behind the head. The species is also called the common name double-eyed soldier bug, and the scientific name bioculatus actually means two eyes. Two-spotted stink bugs are among the beneficial predators in the family Pentatomidae. Although a generalist feeder, the two-spotted stink bug has a known preference for eating Colorado potato beetles. Dr Larry Jernigan / Getty Images Scarlet plant bugs (genus Lopidea) belong to the plant bug family and are among the insects that feed on and damage their host plants. Individual species are often named for their host plants, like the scarlet laurel bug, which feeds on mountain laurels. Not all Lopidea are red and black, but many are. They're typically brilliant scarlet around the outer margins, and black in the center. Scarlet plant bugs are quite small at 5 mm-7 mm in length, but attention-grabbing thanks to their bright colors. Almost 90 species belong to this group, with about 47 scarlet plant bugs in the United States and Canada. While the firebug (Pyrrhocoris apterus) is not native to the Americas, it is occasionally found in the United States and a population of firebugs is established in Utah. Its striking markings and colors will attract your attention. During their mating season, they're often seen in mating aggregations, making them easier to spot. The firebug is one of the smaller red and black bugs, measuring perhaps 10 mm in length as an adult. Its identifying marks include a black triangle and two distinct black spots on a red background. The firebug is typically found around lindens and mallows in the places where it resides in the United States Ann Schulz / Insects Unlocked Project The milkweed assassin bug (Zelus longipes) doesn't prey on milkweed plants, of course. It is a true assassin bug that hunts all manner of soft-bodied insects, from caterpillars to beetles. Its common name comes from its resemblance to the large milkweed bug, Oncopeltus fasciatus. These very different true bugs share similar markings, making it easy for the amateur observer to misidentify them. This beneficial predator is also known as the long-legged assassin bug. (Longipes means long-legged.) Its body, from head to abdomen, is mainly red or orange, with distinctive black markings on the thorax and wings. They usually overwinter as adults. Joe Flannery / Flickr / CC by SA The bee assassin bug, Apiomerus crassipes, is not just a threat to bees. This generalist predator will readily consume any arthropod it encounters, including honey bees and other pollinators. Like other cunning assassin bugs, the bee assassin lies in wait for prey, resting on flowering plants until a suitable meal lands within reach. Bee assassins have sticky hairs on the first pair of legs that enable them to grip their prey. While most assassin bugs are poor fliers, the bee assassin is a notable exception. Bee assassin bugs are mostly black, with red (or sometimes yellow) markings along the sides of the abdomen. Within the species, individual bee assassins can vary quite a bit in size, with some as small as 12 mm and others as long as 20 mm. Although generally docile, a bee assassin bug will bite in self-defense if handled carelessly Alejandro Santillana, Insects Unlocked Project (public domain) Another bee assassin bug, Apiomerus spissipes, illustrates the similarities between members of this genus. Like its close cousin, Apiomerus crassipes, this bee assassin doesn't limit its meals to bees alone. It is a generalist predator that will readily ambush any arthropod that crosses its path when it is hungry.This species is even more stunning than A. crassipes, thanks to the bright yellow markings that accent its red and black coloration. The bee assassin bug was even honored with a U.S. postage stamp in 1999. David Hill / Flickr / CC by 2.0 Anyone who grows milkweed for monarchs will be familiar with this common red and black bug, the large milkweed bug (Oncopeltus fasciatus). Those who aren't in the know may mistake them for boxelder bugs. Large milkweed bugs feed on the seeds of milkweed plants, and occasionally on the nectar. As the milkweed seed pods mature, they'll often attract dozens of large milkweed bugs, both nymphs, and adults. BugGuide notes that they overwinter as adults, and large milkweed bugs from colder climates will migrate south for the winter. Large milkweed bugs aren't actually all that large at 10 mm-18 mm long. They can be identified by their markings: black diamonds on a reddish-orange background at front and back, and a solid black band across the middle. Denise Krebs / Flickr / CC by 2.0 The small milkweed bug (Lygaeus kalmii) also hangs around the milkweed patch, feeding on seeds when they are available. Its feeding habits aren't entirely clear, however. Some observers report small milkweed bugs feeding on flower nectar, scavenging on dead insects, or even preying on other arthropods. Small milkweed bugs reach only 12 mm or so in length at their largest. They are easily identified by the presence of a reddish-orange "X" on the back, although the lines forming the "X" don't completely meet in the center. Katja Schulz / Flickr / CC by 2.0 If you live east of the Rocky Mountains, you may discover eastern boxelder bugs when they gather in large numbers on the sunny side of your home. Boxelder bugs (Boisea trivittatus) have an unfortunate habit of invading homes in the fall, and for this reason, people often consider them pests. A similar species, the western boxelder bug (Boisea rubrolineata) inhabits the western United States. Both adult and larval boxelder bugs feed on sap taken from the seeds, flowers, and leaves of their host trees. They mainly feed on maples, including the boxelder maples from which they get their name. However, their diet isn't limited to Acer spp., and oaks and ailanthus are also likely to attract them. The eastern boxelder bug measures a half-inch long at most and is clearly outlined in red along the outer edges. A red stripe down the center of the pronotum is also a key identifying mark. Your garden may be overrun with red and black insects, and they may also make their way inside. Knowing how to get rid of and if a bug is dangerous can be helped by identifying them with a red and black body. Boxelder bugs and red-shouldered bugs are the most frequent red and black insects found in gardens and homes in the spring. Even if they are usually harmless, the bothersome insects might become a bother in your home. It's possible to feel terrified by looking at red and black insects. Because of the warning red colors on the oval insect's black body, for example, it might appear dangerous. Or, red insects with black stripes may appear threatening. The boxelder bug, for example, can also cause an irritating bite. Bugs are a term that is used to describe many different kinds of red and black pests. Bugs in the scientific sense aren't the only colorful insects you have in your house or garden. The order Hemiptera includes the term "bug." The red and black insects have six legs and use their piercing mouthparts to bite into plant tissue and suck the juices out. Even though some of the insects or arthropods mentioned in this article are not truly bugs, they are referred to as such in this context. The creeping crawly you've discovered in your house or yard can be identified by descriptions and pictures of black bugs with red markings. How to Identify Red and Black Bugs and Insects A bug or insect's six legs, two antennae, and whether it has wings or not are all visible characteristics that may be used to identify it. Observing the insect's size, behavior, habitat, and distinguishing markings can also help you identify red and black bugs. To identify certain black and red bugs correctly, you'll need a magnifying glass. Boxelder bugs (Boisea trivittata) and red-shouldered bugs (Jadera haematoloma) are two species of flying red and black insects that seem similar. Boxelders, on the other hand, have deeper red stripes on their black skin. Nonetheless, red and black beetles with rounded hard shells and wings are easy to differentiate from both types of bugs. Types of Red and Black Bugs (with Pictures) – Identification Guide Let's investigate 15 sorts of frequent bugs that have the red and black hues, which may be recognized. Boxelder Bug (Boisea trivittata) The boxelder bug has a flattened, extended oval body with reddish or orange lines or patterns. It has a flat black body with orange-red patterns on it. 0.5 inch (13 mm) long, the adult winged boxelder bug Maples, boxelder trees, ash trees, and strawberries are all hosts for Boxelder Bugs who are active from spring to fall. Black and orange boxelder bugs have six legs and two antennae, like other insects. Females of this species lay crimson eggs on their host plants. The bright red bodies and black heads of boxelder nymphs differentiate them. The insects turn dark gray as they grow, with black stripes appearing on them. Around a food source nearby, you may get a lot of boxelder bugs in your home. Throughout the summer, these little pests sneak into houses via openings in the siding or foundation, or via windows and doors. When cracks clamber to get into a house, you may see masses of black and red bugs. These red and black-winged flying boxelder bugs are attracted to nearby infested boxelder trees and may fly in from there. Boxelder bugs can bite people, although it's uncommon. They're more of a home annoyance pest, particularly when there's a significant infestation. When it's chilly, the insects are dormant, so turning on the heat may cause them to become active and crawl around your home. Preventing boxelder bugs from entering your home is the best way to get rid of them. Window and door screens, for example, may keep the crimson and black insects out of your house. Caulking around windows and walls will also help to keep the insects out. When crushed, boxelder bugs give off a pungent, foul-smelling odor, despite the fact that they are classified as "scentless plant bugs." You may spray insecticidal soap or boiling soapy water on clusters of red and black beetles on the exterior of your home to dislodge and exterminate them. Red and Black Bug Identification The dark gray or black body, with orange-red patterns on its wings and back, distinguishes the boxelder bug. Red-Shouldered Bug (Jadera haematoloma) The red-shouldered bug is a black insect with bright red markings on its shoulders and wing margins. It is also known as the soapberry bug. The bug's vivid red eyes are also visible when it is grayish-black. The bugs have flattened oval bodies and are roughly 0.5 inch (13 mm) long. The body of red-shouldered bug nymphs is bright red, and the head is black. They have black heads, dark brown or black legs, and antennae, like boxelder nymphs do. In Florida gardens, red-shouldered bug adults and nymphs may be seen. The host trees feeding on leaves and stems are occupied by the short-winged black and red bugs. In lawns, where they congregate in huge numbers to eat seeds

deposited by trees, you may also see insects. Red-shouldered bugs are classified as scentless plant bugs and resemble boxelder bugs. The red markings are used to differentiate between the insects. With only red shoulders and a thin red stripe down each margin, Jadera haematoloma is mostly a dark gray or black color. Red-shoulder bug stains on clothes can be permanent. Red and Black Bug Identification The elongated oval body with vivid red colors on the shoulders and body edges of a red-shouldered bug may be used to identify it. Milkweed Assassin Bug (Zelus longipes) The bright red body with black patterns, six long black legs, and pair of black wings distinguish the milkweed assassin bug from other insects. Moreover, a milkweed assassin bug has a long sucking mouthpart and a slender body with an extended oval abdomen. These red and black insects have white markings on their underside of the abdomen, which can be seen up close. Milkweed assassin bugs are around 0.5 inches (20 mm) long and resemble milkweed nymphs. Caterpillars, flies, mosquitoes, and destructive beetles are all prey for the red and black bugs. Although the slender bugs are not aggressive, if you catch them, they can give you a painful bite. Red and Black Bug Identification The milkweed assassin bug has a slender body with jet black hairy legs, two long black antennae, and a long piercing snout-like mouthpiece. Its bright-red and black pattern is easily identifiable. Firebug (Pyrrhocoris apterus) The firebug is a tiny red bug with black round dots and triangular marks on its back that can be easily recognized. Due to its distinctive red and black coloration, the striking bug is easy to identify in gardens. The little red and black bug feeds on lime and mallow trees, measuring 0.4″ (10 mm) in length. Because they neither bite people nor harm trees, red and black firebugs are not harmful. Hordes of creeping crawlies in the home, on the other hand, can be a bother. In the fall, red firebugs invade houses and overwinter in milder climates. Red firebugs produce a horrible odor when crushed, which may attract additional insects. In addition, red can stains apparel and carpets. Vacuuming them is usually the simplest way to get rid of them if you find them in your house. Red and Black Bug Identification The firebug has two large black dots and two small black triangles on its back, making it easy to see. The bug’s legs are crimson, and its antennae are crimson as well. Mediterranean Red Bug (Scantius aegyptius) The firebug and the Mediterranean red bug both belong to the Pyrrhocoridae family, however the firebug has two additional little black dots in addition. It’s tough to tell the difference between this seed-eating crimson bug and a firebug. The reddish-orange color on the back of the Mediterranean red bug contrasts with two black spots and a black triangular hourglass pattern. The invasive black and red bug is common in California, measuring 0.27 to 0.35 inch (7 to 9 mm). As they grow up, the immature bugs become completely red and develop black markings. Red and Black Bug Identification On a red-orange elongated oval body, two black spots and a huge black hourglass pattern may be used to identify the Mediterranean red bug. Red and Black Blister Beetle (Meloidae) Some blister beetles have black heads and crimson bodies with crimson round markings on their heads. Red and black blister beetle (Mylabris quadripunctata) is one of them. A slender, brilliant red body with two rows of black dots and markings at the rear, for example, the Mylabris quadripunctata beetle. Furthermore, a small round black thorax and a tiny black head distinguish the red beetle from other beetles. The average length of a red and black blister beetle is 0.4 to 0.8 inches (10 to 20 mm). They may eat flowers and leaves as well, causing damage by feeding on insects and insect eggs. The poisonous liquid contained in blister beetles’ bodies gives them their name. If you squash one of them and the secretion gets on your skin, this can cause skin irritation and blistering. Red and Black Bug Identification The bodies of red and black blister beetles are crimson, with six black legs and two clubbed antennae. Desert Blister Beetle (Lytta magister) The black bug has a red head, black and red legs, and filiform antennae. It has a reddish-orange head and a long body. In California and the southwestern United States, the huge black and red bug can grow up to 1.3″ (33 mm) in length. Beetles of considerable size may also bite. In deserts, the redheaded black blister beetle feeds mostly on brittlebush flowers and is frequently found. The black and redheaded desert beetles, like all blister beetles, emit a yellowish, odorous liquid that can form a painful skin blister. Red and Black Bug Identification The desert blister beetle is distinguished by its dark black body, polished bright red head, crimson legs, and two filiform antennae. Cocklebur Weevil (Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus) The cocklebur weevil is a tiny red and black bug with a visible black rounded snout, like all weevils. It has a little black head with a long snout. The thorax and head of the red cocklebur weevil are orange-red, while the body is black. The back of the creature is identifiable by black specks, which contrast with its crimson-orange colour. Cocklebur weevils range in size from 0.25 to 0.5 inch (6 to 13 mm) long and are red or black in color. Cocklebur, ragweed, or thistle leaves are commonly eaten by the insects. The name five-spotted billbug refers to this species of red weevil, Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus. Some red and black weevils have more or fewer black dots on their red bodies, depending on the species. Red and Black Bug Identification The dark orange to red body of the cocklebur weevil, together with its black markings, black legs, long black snout, and two geniculate antennae that appear to have joints, make it easy to spot. Bee Assassin Bug (Apiomerus crassipes) The bee assassin bug is a black bug with red stripes along the sides of its body that flies. The body of these black-colored insects is triangular, with six black legs and two small, wiry antennae. Bee hunters are flying insects that chase bees and wasps from plant to plant. The length of adult bee assassin bugs is between 0.55 and 0.78 inch (14 to 20 mm). From mid-spring until late autumn, black and red bugs are abundant across North America. Bee assassin bugs are frequently found on pine trees. Red and Black Bug Identification The flattened body, black with reddish or orange borders, thick hairy legs, and thin antennae distinguish the bee assassin bug. Italian Striped Bug (Graphosoma italicum) The little black bug with orange-reddish stripes and a shield-shaped body bears alternating black and orange or red stripes. This tiny red and black striped bug features six black legs and thin, pointed antennae, and is also known as the minstrel bug or harlequin bug. The bug is 0.31 to 0.47 inches (8 to 12 mm) long and rounded on the edges. When you find one in your garden, there’s no mistake about it: it’s an Italian red and black striped bug. Plants in the Apiaceae family, including parsley, carrot, celery, hemlock, and hogweed, are known to have the bug feeding beneath their umbrella-like flowers. Harlequin bug adults feature black and red stripes that serve as a deterrent to predators. Red and Black Bug Identification The red Italian striped bug has lengthy black stripes that run lengthwise down its rounded, shield-shaped body, making it simple to distinguish. Two-Spotted Stink Bug (Cosmopepla conspicillaris) The two-spotted stink bug features a black bug with orange-red stripes near its head and thin orange streaks down each side. It has a black shield body. This gorgeous black bug has yellow stripes on the bottom and is coated with a layer of shine. A little bug that measures about 0.3″ (8 mm) long, the attractive black bug with orange markings is a popular bug. The two-spotted stink bug’s distinctive red or orange speckled patterning is known as a common name. The happy bespectacled stink bug, for example, is known as the black bug. The red or yellow semi-circle resembles a grin on its back, and this is referred to as the red and black spectacle-like markings. Red and Black Bug Identification The orange-red band that runs across the head of the two-spotted stink bug resembles a pair of colorful glasses. Slim antennae, yellow stripes on the stink bug’s belly, and a U-shaped glossy stripe on its back are among other distinguishing characteristics. Red and Black Ladybugs (Coccinellidae) Ladybugs have rounded red wing coverings with black spots, and they are common in Europe and were successfully introduced to the United States. Ladybugs range in length from 0.04 to 0.4 inch (1 to 10 mm). In the autumn, the red bugs, which have wings, can swarm inside buildings. Yellow and black ladybugs exist in certain varieties. Asian Lady Beetle (Harmonia axyridis) In many countries, the Asian lady beetle has become a pest in the ladybug family. Depending on the species, the flying bugs may be red with black dots or black with red spots. Adults of this tiny red and black beetle range from 0.2 to 0.3 inches (5 to 8 mm). Native ladybugs bite and may cause allergic skin responses, but Asian lady beetles seem to be similar. Black Clock Beetle (Pterostichus madidus) The black clock beetle has red legs with spiky spines and a black ridged body. The black beetle’s black and red legs are spined, and its gleaming metallic abdomen is ridged up close. The black clock beetle lives in gardens and measures 0.55 to 0.78 inch (14 to 20 mm) long. Scarlet Lily Leaf Beetle (Lilioceris lilii) The scarlet lily leaf beetle is also called red lily beetle, or lily leaf beetle and is shiny red with black legs and antennae The scarlet lily beetle is a bright red leaf beetle with black head, legs and antennae that eats the leaves, stems and flowers of lilies and other plants from the family Liliaceae. Adult lily beetle measures about ¼–⅜ inch (6 to 9 mm) in length. Red and black bugs can be found crawling in your garden, and they can also invade your home. Identifying insects with a red and black body can help know how to get rid of them and if they are dangerous. The most common red and black insects in yards and houses in spring are boxelder bugs and red-shouldered bugs. The annoying insects can become a nuisance indoors even though they are generally harmless. Seeing bugs with red and black coloring can create a sense of panic. For example, the oval insect’s black body and bright red or orange dots or stripes could appear dangerous due to warning red colors. Or red insects that have black markings may have a menacing appearance. Some red and black bugs like the boxelder bug can also inflict an irritating bite. Many people refer to all kinds of red and black pests as bugs. However, not all colorful insects in your house or garden are bugs in the scientific sense. True bugs are insects that belong to the order Hemiptera. The six-legged insects have two antennae and piercing mouthparts that allow the red and black bugs to bite into plant tissue to suck its juices. This article refers to all types of red and black insects or arthropods as bugs, even though some are not bugs in the true sense. Descriptions and pictures of black bugs with red markings will help identify the creeping crawly you have discovered in your house or yard. How to Identify Red and Black Bugs and Insects Apart from the red and black coloring, you can identify a bug or insect by its six legs, two antennae, and if it has wings or not. Red and black bug identification is also possible by observing the insect’s size, behavior, habitat, and distinguishing markings. Some black and red bugs are so tiny you need a magnifying glass to identify them correctly. For example, flying red and black bugs like boxelder bugs (Boisea trivittata) and red-shouldered bugs (Jadera haematoloma) look similar. However, boxelders have more prominent red stripes on their black body. But, both types of bugs are easy to distinguish from red and black beetles that have rounded hard shells and wings. Types of Red and Black Bugs (with Pictures) – Identification Guide Let’s look in more detail at 15 types of common bugs that can be identified by their red and black colors. Boxelder Bug (Boisea trivittata) Boxelder bugs have a flat black body with orange-red markings The boxelder bug is a common black and red flying bug with reddish or orange lines or markings on a flattened, elongated oval body. Adult winged boxelder bugs measure 0.5” (13 mm) long. Boxelder bugs are active from spring through fall and are found on maples, boxelder trees, ash trees, and strawberries. Like all insects, black and orange boxelder bugs have six legs and two antennae. Adult females lay brightly colored red eggs on host plants. Boxelder nymphs are identified by their bright red bodies and black heads. As the black and orange bugs mature, they become dark gray and develop dark orange stripes. Adult and nymph boxelder bugs You may get a lot of boxelder bugs in your home if there is a food source nearby. These small annoying pests enter buildings in summer through open windows, doors, or cracks in the siding or foundation. You may see masses of black and red bugs near cracks as they clamber to get into a house. The red and black winged boxelder bugs are also excellent fliers and may come from nearby infested boxelder trees. Black and red boxelder bugs can bite, but it’s rare they bite humans. They are more of a nuisance pest in the home, especially if you have a large infestation. Because the bugs are inactive when it’s cold, turning on the heating may cause them to become active and start crawling throughout your house. The best way to get rid of boxelder bugs is to prevent them from getting into your home. For example, window or door screens can stop the red and black bug flying into your home. Also, caulking cracks around windows and in walls will help keep all insects out. Even though boxelder bugs are classified as “scentless plant bugs,” they emit a pungent, foul-smelling odor when crushed. If you see groups of red and black bugs on the sides of your house, you can spray them with insecticidal soap or hot soapy water to dislodge and kill them. Red and Black Bug Identification The boxelder bug is identified by its dark gray or black body, with orange-red markings on its wings and back. Red-Shouldered Bug (Jadera haematoloma) Red-shouldered bugs have a black oval flat body with red markings and red eyes Also called the soapberry bug, the red-shouldered bug is a black insect with bright red markings on its shoulders and wing edges. The grayish-black bug also has identifiable bright red eyes. The black and red bugs measure around 0.5” (13 mm) long and have distinctive flattened oval bodies. Red-shouldered bug nymphs have a bright red body and a black head. Like boxelder nymphs, they have black heads, dark brown or black legs, and antennae. Red-shouldered bug adult and nymph Red-shouldered bugs are common in Florida gardens. The short-winged black and red bugs are primarily found on host trees feeding on leaves and stems. However, you will also find the bugs on lawns where they congregate in masses to feed on seeds fallen from trees. Red-shouldered bugs look like boxelder bugs and are classed as scentless plant bugs. The way to tell the bugs apart is by the red markings. Jadera haematoloma is mostly a dark gray or black color with only red shoulders and a thin red stripe running along each edge. Crushing red-shoulder bugs can leave a reddish stain on clothing. Red and Black Bug Identification To identify a red-shouldered bug, look for its elongated oval body with vibrant red colors on its shoulders and body edges. Milkweed Assassin Bug (Zelus longipes) Milkweed assassin bug can be identified by its distinctive red and black colored body, very long antennae and legs The milkweed assassin bug is identified by its bright red body with black patterns, six long black legs, and pair of black wings. In addition, milkweed assassin bugs have a slender body with an elongated oval abdomen, and a long sucking mouthpart. Up close, pictures of these red and black bugs show they have white markings on the underside of the abdomen. Milkweed assassin nymph Milkweed assassin bugs measure approximately 0.5” (20 mm) long. The red and black bugs are beneficial insects that prey on caterpillars, flies, mosquitoes, and destructive beetles. The slender bugs are not aggressive, but they can inflict a painful bite if you trap them. Red and Black Bug Identification The milkweed assassin bug has an easily-identifiable bright-red and black pattern, slender body with jet black hairy legs, two long black antennae, and a long piercing snout-like mouthpiece. Firebug (Pyrrhocoris apterus) Firebugs can be easily identified by their red body with black round spots and triangular markings The firebug is a small red bug with black round spots and triangular markings on its back. The striking bug is easy to recognize in gardens due to its distinctive red and black coloration. The small red and black bug measures 0.4” (10 mm) long and can be found feeding on lime trees and mallow trees. Red and black firebugs are not dangerous because they don’t bite humans or harm trees. However, hordes of creeping crawlies in homes can become a nuisance. Red firebugs invade homes in the fall to overwinter in warmer places. If you crush them, red firebugs cause a nasty stench, and the smell may attract other insects. Additionally, the red color can leave a stain on clothing and carpets. If you find them in your home, vacuuming them is usually the best solution to get rid of them. Red and Black Bug Identification The firebug has an easily identifiable red oval body with two striking black dots and two black triangles on its back. In addition, the red bug has black legs and two black antennae. Mediterranean Red Bug (Scantius aegyptius) The Mediterranean red bug is very similar to firebug and both belong to the family Pyrrhocoridae, but the firebug has 2 extra tiny black dots The Mediterranean red bug is a brightly colored insect with an orange-red body and striking black markings. This seed-feeding red bug is difficult to tell apart from the firebug. The Mediterranean red bug has two black spots and a black triangular hourglass marking contrasting with the reddish-orange color on its back. The Mediterranean red bug measures 0.27” to 0.35” (7 – 9 mm), and the invasive black and red bug is common in California. The immature bugs are generally entirely red and develop black spots as they mature. Red and Black Bug Identification To identify the Mediterranean red bug, look for two black spots and a large black hourglass marking on a red-orange elongated oval body. Red and Black Blister Beetle (Meloidae) The red and black blister beetle (Mylabris quadripunctata) has a black head and red body with black round spots Some species of blister beetles are red insects with black spots covered in fine hairs. For example, the Mylabris quadripunctata beetle has a slender, bright red body with two rows of black dots and black markings at its tail. In addition, the red beetle has a small round black thorax and a small black head. Red and black blister beetles measure 0.4” to 0.8” (10 – 20 mm) long. They usually feed on insects and insect eggs and may also feed on flowers and leaves, causing some damage. Blister beetles get their name from the poisonous liquid contained in their bodies. This can cause skin irritation and blistering if you squash one of them and the secretion gets on your skin. Related reading: How to identify types of beetles. Red and Black Bug Identification Red and black blister beetles have bright red bodies with several black spots, six black legs, and two clubbed antennae. Desert Blister Beetle (Lytta magister) The desert blister beetle has reddish-orange head and black oval long body The desert blister beetle is a black bug with a red head, black and red legs, and filiform antennae. The large black and red beetle can measure between 0.6” and 1.3” (16 – 33 mm) and is common in California and the southwestern United States. The large beetles can also bite. The redheaded black blister beetle is commonly found in deserts, mainly feeding on brittlebush flowers. Like all blister beetles, the black and redheaded desert beetle exudes a yellowish, foul-smelling secretion that can cause a painful skin blister. Red and Black Bug Identification The desert blister beetle is easy to identify with its deep black body and shiny bright red head, red legs, and two antennae in a filiform shape. Cocklebur Weevil (Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus) The small cocklebur weevil has a small black head with long snout and black patterns on its red body The cocklebur weevil is a type of red and black bug with an identifiable black rounded snout, characteristic of all weevils. The red cocklebur weevil has an orange-red body, thorax, and a tiny black head. Identifiable black spots on its back contrast with its red-orange body. Red and black cocklebur weevils measure approximately 0.25” to 0.5” (6 – 13 mm) long. The tiny insects generally feed on cocklebur, ragweed, or thistle leaves. This species of red weevil, Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus, also goes by the name five-spotted billbug. Depending on the species, other types of red and black weevils can have more or fewer black dots on their red bodies. Red and Black Bug Identification The cocklebur weevil is easy to identify due to its dark orange to red body, black spots, black legs, a long black snout, and two geniculate antennae that look like they have joints. Bee Assassin Bug (Apiomerus crassipes) The black bee assassin is a flying bug with red markings on the sides of its body The bee assassin bug is a black bug with red markings along the sides of its abdomen. These dark-colored bugs have a triangular-shaped body, six black legs, and two thin, wiry antennae. Bee assassins are also flying bugs that go from plant to plant, hunting bees and wasps. Adult bee assassin bugs measure between 0.55” and 0.78” (14 – 20 mm) long. The black and red bugs are common throughout North America and are active from mid-spring until late fall. You will often find bee assassin bugs on pine trees. Red and Black Bug Identification The bee assassin bug is identified by its flattened body that is mostly black with reddish or orange margins, thick hairy legs, and thin antennae. Italian Striped Bug (Graphosoma italicum) The small Italian striped bug has a shield shaped body with alternating black and orange or red stripes The Italian striped bug is a striking black bug with orange-reddish stripes and a body in the shape of a shield. Also called the minstrel bug or harlequin bug, this small red and black striped bug has six black legs and thin, pointed antennae. The rounded bug measures between 0.31” and 0.47” (8 – 12 mm) long. There is no mistaking an Italian red and black striped bug if you find one in your garden. The bug can be found feeding under the umbrella-like flowers of plants in the family Apiaceae —parsley, carrot, celery, hemlock, and hogweed. The black and red stripes of the harlequin bug are a warning sign to predators. Red and Black Bug Identification The easily identifiable Italian striped bug is red with thick black stripes running longitudinally down its rounded, shield-shaped body. Two-Spotted Stink Bug (Cosmopepla conspicillaris) The two-spotted stink bug has a black shield shaped body with orange-red band and two black spots The two-spotted stink bug is a black bug with an orange-red band near its head and thin orange lines along its margins. The underside of this unusual shiny black bug is yellow with black stripes. The attractive black bug with its orange markings is a tiny bug that measures approximately 0.3” (8 mm) long. Other common names for the two-spotted stink bug refer to its unique red or orange speckled patterning. For example, it’s called the happy bespectacled stink bug black bug. This refers to the red and black spectacle-like markings and the red or yellow semi-circle resembling a smile on its back. Red and Black Bug Identification The two-spotted stink bug is identified by its orange-red band that looks like a pair of colorful spectacles near its head. Other recognizable features of the stink bug are slender antennae, yellow markings on its belly, and a U-shaped bright marking on its back. Red and Black Ladybugs (Coccinellidae) The seven-spotted ladybird (Coccinella septempunctata) is common in Europe and was successfully introduced into states in the US Ladybugs are easily recognizable beetles due to their rounded red wing coverings with black spots. Red and black ladybugs measure between 0.04” and 0.4” (1 – 10 mm) long. The red bugs have wings and can swarm into buildings in the fall. Some types of ladybugs are yellow and black. Related reading: How to identify various types of ladybugs. Asian Lady Beetle (Harmonia axyridis) The Asian lady beetle is now becoming a pest in many countries The Asian lady beetle is an invasive species in North America in the ladybug family. The flying bugs can be red with black dots or black with red spots depending on the species. The small red and black adult beetles measure 0.2” to 0.3” (5 – 8 mm) long. Asian lady beetles look similar to native ladybugs but they bite and can cause allergic skin reactions. Black Clock Beetle (Pterostichus madidus) The black clock beetle has red legs with spines and black ridged body The black clock beetle is described as a black bug with red legs. Up close, pictures of the black beetle show its black and red legs have spines, and its shiny black abdomen is ridged. The black clock beetle measures 0.55” to 0.78” (14 – 20 mm) long and is found in gardens. Scarlet Lily Leaf Beetle (Lilioceris lilii) The scarlet lily leaf beetle is also called red lily beetle, or lily leaf beetle and is shiny red with black legs and antennae The scarlet lily beetle is a bright red leaf beetle with black head, legs and antennae that eats the leaves, stems and flowers of lilies and other plants from the family Liliaceae. Adult lily beetle measures about ¼–⅜ inch (6 to 9 mm) in length. Related articles: 15 Red and Black Bugs (Pictures) – Insect and Bug Identification was last modified: July 27th, 2023 by Jessica Nolan, Gardening Expert It's not a beetle, not a cockroach, and not something you should squash, no matter how many squeeze their way into your home. All through fall and winter this year, CBC London has noticed social media posts and questions about a particular type of bug turning up inside homes. It's black with red edges, almond-shaped and about two centimetres long. Antonia Guidotti is an entomology technician at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. She says these are likely boxelder bugs. They are native to North America and get their name from the boxelder tree, also known as Manitoba maples, whose seeds are an important food source for the insects. In some areas, they're called maple bugs.Guidotti says boxelder bugs aren't technically classified as beetles because they don't have mandibles to chew up food. Instead they have "mouth-sucking parts" for slurping up juices from plant secretions and seeds. They also have wings and can fly short distances.Like a house cat, boxelder bugs love to seek out the sun. They often mass on the south and west-facing exterior walls of buildings as they try to stay warm when the weather cools in the fall. As the weather gets cooler, boxelders often find ways to come indoors."The adults like to overwinter in a nice, warm space, like people that head south for the winter," said Guidotti. Boxelder bugs also tend to congregate together, so where there's one, there are often many more. Once spring arrives and the weather warms up, they often become active again, motivated by a desire to get back outside so they can get back to feeding on tree seeds. And while they're unwelcome guests, Guidotti said boxelder bugs aren't known to bite and they won't destroy your home with chewing. "They're more of a nuisance bug as opposed to anything that people really have to worry about," said Guidotti. "They're not going to damage anything and they're not going to bite you." So how do you get them out? Their guts stinkGuidotti advises just sweeping them up — a broom and dustpan work well — and tossing them outside. They can also be sucked up with a vacuum or grabbed in a tissue and flushed down the toilet. So why is it not advisable to squash boxelder bugs? Guidotti says their red guts are stinky and can leave permanent stains, particularly on light-coloured walls, curtains or linen. They can also emit the stink when they're under stress."They will release a really smelly compound if they get upset so you don't want to disturb them if you can avoid it," she said. Guidotti also isn't in favour of spraying insecticides for boxelders, even if they keep coming in. "Whatever chemical you're spraying could do a lot more harm than these bugs ever will," she said. She recommends making sure your doors and windows are well sealed with screens and caulking so the heat-seeking bugs can't get inside.So why are we seeing more boxelder bugs more now? Guidotti said one theory is that they thrived over last summer's dry conditions, so more survived into the winter. Also, the boxelder and other bugs like them aren't an appealing snack for most birds. Red and black bugs can be found crawling in your garden, and they can also invade your home. Identifying insects with a red and black body can help know how to get rid of them and if they are dangerous. The most common red and black insects in yards and houses in spring are boxelder bugs and red-shouldered bugs. The annoying insects can become a nuisance indoors even though they are generally harmless. Seeing bugs with red and black coloring can create a sense of panic. For example, the oval insect’s black body and bright red or orange dots or stripes could appear dangerous due to warning red colors. Or red insects that have black markings may have a menacing appearance. Some red and black bugs like the boxelder bug can also inflict an irritating bite. Many people refer to all kinds of red and black pests as bugs. However, not all colorful insects in your house or garden are bugs in the scientific sense. True bugs are insects that belong to the order Hemiptera. The six-legged insects have two antennae and piercing mouthparts that allow the red and black bugs to bite into plant tissue to suck its juices. This article refers to all types of red and black insects or arthropods as bugs, even though some are not bugs in the true sense. Descriptions and pictures of black bugs with red markings will help identify the creeping crawly you have discovered in your house or yard. How to Identify Red and Black Bugs and Insects Apart from the red and black coloring, you can identify a bug or insect by its six legs, two antennae, and if it has wings or not. Red and black bug identification is also possible by observing the insect’s size, behavior, habitat, and distinguishing markings. Some black and red bugs are so tiny you need a magnifying glass to identify them correctly. For example, flying red and black bugs like boxelder bugs (Boisea trivittata) and red-shouldered bugs (Jadera haematoloma) look similar. However, boxelders have more prominent red stripes on their black body. But, both types of bugs are easy to distinguish from red and black beetles that have rounded hard shells and wings. Types of Red and Black Bugs (with Pictures) – Identification Guide Let’s look in more detail at 15 types of common bugs that can be identified by their red and black colors. Boxelder Bug (Boisea trivittata) Boxelder bugs have a flat black body with orange-red markings The boxelder bug is a common black and red flying bug with reddish or orange lines or markings on a flattened, elongated oval body. Adult winged boxelder bugs measure 0.5” (13 mm) long. Boxelder bugs are active from spring through fall and are found on maples, boxelder trees, ash trees, and strawberries. Like all insects, black and orange boxelder bugs have six legs and two antennae. Adult females lay brightly colored red eggs on host plants. Boxelder nymphs are identified by their bright red bodies and black heads. As the black and orange bugs mature, they become dark gray and develop dark orange stripes. Adult and nymph boxelder bugs You may get a lot of boxelder bugs in your home if there is a food source nearby. These small annoying pests enter buildings in summer through open windows, doors, or cracks in the siding or foundation. You may see masses of black and red bugs near cracks as they clamber to get into a house. The red and black winged boxelder bugs are also excellent fliers and may come from nearby infested boxelder trees. Black and red boxelder bugs can bite, but it’s rare they bite humans. They are more of a nuisance pest in the home, especially if you have a large infestation. Because the bugs are inactive when it’s cold, turning on the heating may cause them to become active and start crawling throughout your house. The best way to get rid of boxelder bugs is to prevent them from getting into your home. For example, window or door screens can stop the red and black bug flying into your home. Also, caulking cracks around windows and in walls will help keep all insects out. Even though boxelder bugs are classified as “scentless plant bugs,” they emit a pungent, foul-smelling odor when crushed. If you see groups of red and black bugs on the sides of your house, you can spray them with insecticidal soap or hot soapy water to dislodge and kill them. Red and Black Bug Identification The boxelder bug is identified by its dark gray or black body, with orange-red markings on its wings and back. Red-Shouldered Bug (Jadera haematoloma) Red-shouldered bugs have a black oval flat body with red markings and red eyes Also called the soapberry bug, the red-shouldered bug is a black insect with bright red markings on its shoulders and wing edges. The grayish-black bug also has identifiable bright red eyes. The black and red bugs measure around 0.5” (13 mm) long and have distinctive flattened oval bodies. Red-shouldered bug nymphs have a bright red body and a black head. Like boxelder nymphs, they have black heads, dark brown or black legs, and antennae. Red-shouldered bug adult and nymph Red-shouldered bugs are common in Florida gardens. The short-winged black and red bugs are primarily found on host trees feeding on leaves and stems. However, you will also find the bugs on lawns where they congregate in masses to feed on seeds fallen from trees. Red-shouldered bugs look like boxelder bugs and are classed as scentless plant bugs. The way to tell the bugs apart is by the red markings. Jadera haematoloma is mostly a dark gray or black color with only red shoulders and a thin red stripe running along each edge. Crushing red-shoulder bugs can leave a reddish stain on clothing. Red and Black Bug Identification To identify a red-shouldered bug, look for its elongated oval body with vibrant red colors on its shoulders and body edges. Milkweed Assassin Bug (Zelus longipes) Milkweed assassin bug can be identified by its distinctive red and black colored body, very long antennae and legs The milkweed assassin bug is identified by its bright red body with black patterns, six long black legs, and pair of black wings. In addition, milkweed assassin bugs have a slender body with an elongated oval abdomen, and a long sucking mouthpart. Up close, pictures of these red and black bugs show they have white markings on the underside of the abdomen. Milkweed assassin nymph Milkweed assassin bugs measure approximately 0.5” (20 mm) long. The red and black bugs are beneficial insects that prey on caterpillars, flies, mosquitoes, and destructive beetles. The slender bugs are not aggressive, but they can inflict a painful bite if you trap them. Red and Black Bug Identification The milkweed assassin bug has an easily-identifiable bright-red and black pattern, slender body with jet black hairy legs, two long black antennae, and a long piercing snout-like mouthpiece. Firebug (Pyrrhocoris apterus) Firebugs can be easily identified by their red body with black round spots and triangular markings The firebug is a small red bug with black round spots and triangular markings on its back. The striking bug is easy to recognize in gardens due to its distinctive red and black coloration. The small red and black bug measures 0.4” (10 mm) long and can be found feeding on lime trees and mallow trees. Red and black firebugs are not dangerous because they don’t bite humans or harm trees. However, hordes of creeping crawlies in homes can become a nuisance. Red firebugs invade homes in the fall to overwinter in warmer places. If you crush them, red firebugs cause a nasty stench, and the smell may attract other insects. Additionally, the red color can leave a stain on clothing and carpets. If you find them in your home, vacuuming them is usually the best solution to get rid of them. Red and Black Bug Identification The firebug has an easily identifiable red oval body with two striking black dots and two black triangles on its back. In addition, the red bug has black legs and two black antennae. Mediterranean Red Bug (Scantius aegyptius) The Mediterranean red bug is very similar to firebug and both belong to the family Pyrrhocoridae, but the firebug has 2 extra tiny black dots The Mediterranean red bug is a brightly colored insect with an orange-red body and striking black markings. This seed-feeding red bug is difficult to tell apart from the firebug. The Mediterranean red bug has two black spots and a black triangular hourglass marking contrasting with the reddish-orange color on its back. The Mediterranean red bug measures 0.27” to 0.35” (7 – 9 mm), and the invasive black and red bug is common in California. The immature bugs are generally entirely red and develop black spots as they mature. Red and Black Bug Identification To identify the Mediterranean red bug, look for two black spots and a large black hourglass marking on a red-orange elongated oval body. Red and Black Blister Beetle (Meloidae) The red and black blister beetle (Mylabris quadripunctata) has a black head and red body with black round spots Some species of blister beetles are red insects with black spots covered in fine hairs. For example, the Mylabris quadripunctata beetle has a slender, bright red body with two rows of black dots and black markings at its tail. In addition, the red beetle has a small round black thorax and a small black head. Red and black blister beetles measure 0.4” to 0.8” (10 – 20 mm) long. They usually feed on insects and insect eggs and may also feed on flowers and leaves, causing some damage. Blister beetles get their name from the poisonous liquid contained in their bodies. This can cause skin irritation and blistering if you squash one of them and the secretion gets on your skin. Related reading: How to identify types of beetles. Red and Black Bug Identification Red and black blister beetles have bright red bodies with several black spots, six black legs, and two clubbed antennae. Desert Blister Beetle (Lytta magister) The desert blister beetle has reddish-orange head and black oval long body The desert blister beetle is a black bug with a red head, black and red legs, and filiform antennae. The large black and red beetle can measure between 0.6” and 1.3” (16 – 33 mm) and is common in California and the southwestern United States. The large beetles can also bite. The redheaded black blister beetle is commonly found in deserts, mainly feeding on brittlebush flowers. Like all blister beetles, the black and redheaded desert beetle exudes a yellowish, foul-smelling secretion that can cause a painful skin blister. Red and Black Bug Identification The desert blister beetle is easy to identify with its deep black body and shiny bright red head, red legs, and two antennae in a filiform shape. Cocklebur Weevil (Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus) The small cocklebur weevil has a small black head with long snout and black patterns on its red body The cocklebur weevil is a type of red and black bug with an identifiable black rounded snout, characteristic of all weevils. The red cocklebur weevil has an orange-red body, thorax, and a tiny black head. Identifiable black spots on its back contrast with its red-orange body. Red and black cocklebur weevils measure approximately 0.25” to 0.5” (6 – 13 mm) long. The tiny insects generally feed on cocklebur, ragweed, or thistle leaves. This species of red weevil, Rhodobaenus quinquepunctatus, also goes by the name five-spotted billbug. Depending on the species, other types of red and black weevils can have more or fewer black dots on their red bodies. Red and Black Bug Identification The cocklebur weevil is easy to identify due to its dark orange to red body, black spots, black legs, a long black snout, and two geniculate antennae that look like they have joints. Bee Assassin Bug (Apiomerus crassipes) The black bee assassin is a flying bug with red markings on the sides of its body The bee assassin bug is a black bug with red markings along the sides of its abdomen. These dark-colored bugs have a triangular-shaped body, six black legs, and two thin, wiry antennae. Bee assassins are also flying bugs that go from plant to plant, hunting bees and wasps. Adult bee assassin bugs measure between 0.55” and 0.78” (14 – 20 mm) long. The black and red bugs are common throughout North America and are active from mid-spring until late fall. You will often find bee assassin bugs on pine trees. Red and Black Bug Identification The bee assassin bug is identified by its flattened body that is mostly black with reddish or orange margins, thick hairy legs, and thin antennae. Italian Striped Bug (Graphosoma italicum) The small Italian striped bug has a shield shaped body with alternating black and orange or red stripes The Italian striped bug is a striking black bug with orange-reddish stripes and a body in the shape of a shield. Also called the minstrel bug or harlequin bug, this small red and black striped bug has six black legs and thin, pointed antennae. The rounded bug measures between 0.31” and 0.47” (8 – 12 mm) long. There is no mistaking an Italian red and black striped bug if you find one in your garden. The bug can be found feeding under the umbrella-like flowers of plants in the family Apiaceae —parsley, carrot, celery, hemlock, and hogweed. The black and red stripes of the harlequin bug are a warning sign to predators. Red and Black Bug Identification The easily identifiable Italian striped bug is red with thick black stripes running longitudinally down its rounded, shield-shaped body. Two-Spotted Stink Bug (Cosmopepla conspicillaris) The two-spotted stink bug has a black shield shaped body with orange-red band and two black spots The two-spotted stink bug is a black bug with an orange-red band near its head and thin orange lines along its margins. The underside of this unusual shiny black bug is yellow with black stripes. The attractive black bug with its orange markings is a tiny bug that measures approximately 0.3” (8 mm) long. Other common names for the two-spotted stink bug refer to its unique red or orange speckled patterning. For example, it’s called the happy bespectacled stink bug black bug. This refers to the red and black spectacle-like markings and the red or yellow semi-circle resembling a smile on its back. Red and Black Bug Identification The two-spotted stink bug is identified by its orange-red band that looks like a pair of colorful spectacles near its head. Other recognizable features of the stink bug are slender antennae, yellow markings on its belly, and a U-shaped bright marking on its back. Red and Black Ladybugs (Coccinellidae) The seven-spotted ladybird (Coccinella septempunctata) is common in Europe and was successfully introduced into states in the US Ladybugs are easily recognizable beetles due to their rounded red wing coverings with black spots. Red and black ladybugs measure between 0.04” and 0.4” (1 – 10 mm) long. The red bugs have wings and can swarm into buildings in the fall. Some types of ladybugs are yellow and black. Related reading: How to identify various types of ladybugs. Asian Lady Beetle (Harmonia axyridis) The Asian lady beetle is now becoming a pest in many countries The Asian lady beetle is an invasive species in North America in the ladybug family. The flying bugs can be red with black dots or black with red spots depending on the species. The small red and black adult beetles measure 0.2” to 0.3” (5 – 8 mm) long. Asian lady beetles look similar to native ladybugs but they bite and can cause allergic skin reactions. Black Clock Beetle (Pterostichus madidus) The black clock beetle has red legs with spines and black ridged body The black clock beetle is described as a black bug with red legs. Up close, pictures of the black beetle show its black and red legs have spines, and its shiny black abdomen is ridged. The black clock beetle measures 0.55” to 0.78” (14 – 20 mm) long and is found in gardens. Scarlet Lily Leaf Beetle (Lilioceris lilii) The scarlet lily leaf beetle is also called red lily beetle, or lily leaf beetle and is shiny red with black legs and antennae The scarlet lily beetle is a bright red leaf beetle with black head, legs and antennae that eats the leaves, stems and flowers of lilies and other plants from the family Liliaceae. Adult lily beetle measures about ¼–⅜ inch (6 to 9 mm) in length. Related articles: 15 Red and Black Bugs (Pictures) – Insect and Bug Identification was last modified: July 27th, 2023 by Jessica Nolan, Gardening Expert Have you noticed tiny black insects crawling or flying around your house and wondered what they are? These minuscule pests can be anything from harmless fungus gnats to fabric-destroying carpet beetles. Some are more of a nuisance than a danger, while others may signal underlying issues like moisture, mold, or food contamination. In this guide, you’ll discover 15 common tiny black bugs found indoors—along with their habits, appearance, and where you’re most likely to find them. Carpet beetles are one of the most common tiny black insects found in houses, especially in areas with natural fibers like wool, silk, and leather. Though adults are often seen near windows, it’s the larvae that cause the most damage by feeding on household fabrics and stored items. Small, oval-shaped body Adults measure around 2–4 mm in length Usually black with white, brown, or yellow speckled patterns Larvae are fuzzy, brownish, and carrot-shaped Found near baseboards, carpets, furniture, or inside closets Carpet beetles thrive in undisturbed areas like storage rooms, under rugs, and in air vents. They feed on natural materials including pet hair, wool clothing, and even dried food items. Adults are attracted to sunlight and are often seen crawling near windows. Adult carpet beetles are typically dark brown to black, sometimes with specks of lighter scales. The larvae are darker brown with bristles, making them easier to identify during infestations. Booklice are tiny black or grayish insects that commonly appear in damp areas of the home, especially where mold or mildew is present. Despite their name, they aren’t true lice and do not bite humans. Very small, soft-bodied insects (1–2 mm long) Usually gray, black, or pale cream in color Wingless or with very short wings Found near books, wallpaper, window sills, or bathroom corners Booklice thrive in warm, humid environments. They feed on mold, mildew, book bindings, and even stored food. You’ll often find them near leaky pipes, damp cardboard, or around windows with condensation. Most booklice appear light gray to black and may be hard to spot due to their size and quick movement in cracks or along surfaces. Fungus gnats are tiny black flying insects that often infest indoor potted plants. They are harmless to humans but can be a nuisance and may damage plant roots in their larval stage. Slender, mosquito-like body Adults are about 2–4 mm long Long legs and antennae Found flying around houseplants or near moist soil Fungus gnats lay eggs in damp soil. The larvae feed on fungus, algae, and decaying organic matter. Overwatering is the most common reason for indoor infestations. Fungus gnats are typically black or dark gray, with transparent wings that can reflect light. Their delicate appearance makes them easy to distinguish from fruit flies. Fruit flies are tiny black or dark brown insects often seen flying around overripe fruits, garbage disposals, or drains. Though more commonly tan with red eyes, some appear quite dark and are mistaken for black flies indoors. Small, round-bodied fly (2–4 mm long) Dark-colored body with lighter thorax Red or dark eyes Found near fruits, vegetables, trash bins, or sink drains Fruit flies breed in fermenting or rotting organic matter. They lay eggs on moist, sugary surfaces and can multiply rapidly. Common in kitchens, especially in summer or where hygiene is poor. While some fruit flies are tan, others can appear dark brown to almost black, especially in low light or when wet, giving them a black appearance during infestations. Ants are one of the most common tiny black insects found in homes, especially in kitchens and bathrooms. Sugar ants and pharaoh ants are particularly small and may be black, dark brown, or reddish. Very small body (1–3 mm depending on species) Segmented body with elbowed antennae Found in lines along walls, counters, or pantry shelves Common near food and moisture sources These ants search for sugary or greasy foods and often build nests in walls, under tiles, or inside electrical outlets. They are social insects and can infest homes in large numbers quickly. Most home-invading ants appear glossy black or dark brown, moving in trails toward food. Their small size makes them look like tiny black dots on floors and countertops. Spider beetles are tiny black or reddish-brown insects that resemble spiders due to their round body and long legs. They are scavengers and often found in dark, undisturbed areas of the home. Small, rounded body (1.5–3.5 mm long) Glossy black or dark brown color Long legs and antennae, giving a spider-like appearance Often found in pantries, attics, or cracks in wood Spider beetles feed on a wide range of dry organic material, including flour, grains, wool, and even rodent droppings. They prefer dark, quiet spaces like cupboards, storage boxes, and basements. Most spider beetles have a shiny black or dark reddish-brown body, with a spherical shape and thin legs that make them resemble tiny spiders at a glance. Clover mites are tiny reddish-black or dark-colored insects that sometimes appear as moving specks near sunny windows or walls. They are plant feeders and don’t cause harm to people or pets. Extremely small (about 0.75 mm long) Oval body with long front legs that look like antennae Often appear as tiny moving dots on walls or windowsills Can smear red when crushed Clover mites live outdoors on grasses and plants but may enter homes through cracks during seasonal changes. They’re often seen in large numbers near windows or foundations on sunny days. Though they may appear black to the naked eye, clover mites are usually dark red or reddish-black, especially when observed closely or under good lighting. Springtails are tiny black or gray insects often found in damp indoor areas like bathrooms, basements, and under sinks. They get their name from a tail-like structure (furcula) that helps them jump when disturbed. Very small (0.5–2 mm long) Soft-bodied, usually dark gray, black, or white Can jump short distances when disturbed Common around sinks, drains, and potted plants Springtails thrive in moist environments and feed on mold, fungi, and decaying organic matter. They’re harmless to humans and pets but can appear in large numbers, especially after heavy rain or in humid homes. Most springtails are dark gray to black, though some may be lighter. Their tiny size and hopping behavior often make them look like specks of moving dirt or pepper. Drain flies, also known as moth flies, are tiny black or dark gray insects commonly found around sinks, showers, and floor drains. They are fuzzy-looking and harmless but can become a nuisance when breeding indoors. Small, moth-like body (1.5–5 mm long) Fuzzy wings and body covered in fine hairs Short antennae and slow, hovering flight Often found near bathroom or kitchen drains Drain flies lay eggs in the slimy film inside drains and pipes. The larvae feed on organic matter, and adults emerge to rest on nearby walls and surfaces. Infestations can grow rapidly if drains are not cleaned regularly. These flies are typically dark gray to black, with fuzzy wings that make them look like tiny moths rather than traditional flies. Pantry beetles are tiny black or brown beetles often found in stored food products. They infest pantries, feeding on dry goods like flour, cereal, spices, and pet food. Small, oval or cylindrical body (2–4 mm long) Brown to dark brown in color, sometimes appearing nearly black Smooth or slightly hairy appearance depending on species Often found inside food containers or crawling near pantry shelves These beetles are common kitchen pests. They enter through infested food packages and multiply rapidly in dry food products. Infestations often go unnoticed until adults are seen flying or crawling inside cabinets. Pantry beetles range from light to dark brown, sometimes looking almost black, especially in shadowy areas. Their smooth or ridged bodies can vary slightly by species. Cockroach nymphs are the tiny, immature form of cockroaches, often seen in dark corners of kitchens and bathrooms. In early stages, they can be mistaken for small black bugs due to their size and color. Tiny, oval, wingless body Dark brown to nearly black when newly hatched Grow larger and lighter as they molt Found near sinks, behind appliances, or in wall cracks Nymphs hide in moist, dark areas during the day and come out at night to feed. They grow quickly and can signal the early stages of a cockroach infestation. Early-stage cockroach nymphs are typically shiny dark brown or black, blending in easily with dark surfaces and hiding spots. Grain weevils are tiny black or dark brown insects commonly found in stored grains like rice, wheat, corn, and oats. They are known for boring into whole grains to lay eggs inside. Slender, cylindrical body (2–4 mm long) Dark brown to black coloration Distinctive snout (elongated mouthpart) Often found inside grain containers or on pantry shelves Grain weevils infest whole grains by chewing into kernels and laying eggs inside. The larvae develop within the grain, making infestations hard to detect until adults emerge. They spread quickly and often go unnoticed until food damage becomes obvious. Grain weevils are uniformly dark brown to black, with a hard, shiny body and a noticeable snout. Their small size and color make them easy to miss in food containers. Minute pirate bugs are tiny black insects often seen on window sills or houseplants. Though they’re beneficial predators of plant pests, they can occasionally bite humans, causing mild irritation. Very small (2–3 mm long) Oval, flat body Usually black with white wing patches Can fly and are quick-moving These bugs are natural predators of aphids, thrips, and mites, often found on indoor plants or entering homes accidentally. Though helpful in gardens, they sometimes bite exposed skin, especially in the fall. Minute pirate bugs have a mostly black body with silvery or white patches on their wings, giving them a two-toned appearance under close inspection. Mold mites are tiny, nearly invisible black or white insects that thrive in damp areas where mold is present. Though often overlooked due to their size, heavy infestations may appear as dust-like clusters on surfaces. Extremely small (less than 0.5 mm) Oval-shaped, soft-bodied Color ranges from white to light brown, sometimes appearing dark under shadows May be seen as a fine moving dust layer on surfaces These mites are commonly found in humid areas like bathrooms, basements, or anywhere mold is growing—such as behind wallpaper, inside walls, or near leaky pipes. They feed on mold and fungi and do not bite or harm humans directly. While mold mites are typically pale or translucent, they may appear gray or black in low light or large groups, especially when gathered in large numbers on dark moldy surfaces. Bed bug nymphs are the immature stage of bed bugs, often tiny and black or translucent depending on their age and feeding status. Early instars can look like black specks to the naked eye. Very small (1–4 mm as they grow) Flat, oval-shaped body Translucent when unfed, but dark brown to black after feeding Usually found in mattress seams, bed frames, and furniture cracks Bed bug nymphs hide in tight crevices and feed on blood at night. They go through five growth stages before becoming adults. Infestations are usually detected through bites, fecal spots, or visible nymphs and adults. Newly hatched nymphs are translucent or whitish, but after feeding, they appear reddish-brown to almost black, making them easier to spot against light-colored bedding.

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