

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Rain beetle

Scientific Name: *Pleocoma spp*

Order and Family: Coleoptera; Pleocomidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Usually about 1/6 inch (4.5mm) long	The egg is white with a yellowish tinge and has a smooth, dull surface. It is oval.
Larva/Nymph	Mature larvae are from 1-3/4 to 2-1/4 inches (45 to 55 cm) long	The larva is grub-like with a curved, whitish body and pale yellow-brown head. In the prepupal stage they are creamy white, flaccid and immobile.
Adult	The female <i>P. oregonensis</i> is about 7/8 to 1 inch (22 to 25 mm) long. Female <i>P. crinita</i> and <i>P. minor</i> are about 5/8 inch (15 mm) long.	The adult is similar in appearance to scarab beetles, with strong legs for digging. It is dark or reddish brown and hairy. Its antennae have oval clubs at the end made up of several lamellae, or plate-like structures. The male's antennae have longer lamellae than the females. Females are larger than the males, and are flightless. Neither sex feeds in the adult stage
Pupa (if applicable)	The female is from 1-1/2 to 1-3/4 inches (35 to 45 mm) long, depending on the species. The male is smaller	The female pupa is white and larger than the male.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host plant/s: *Pleocoma* larvae will attack most deciduous fruit trees. Root damage by rain beetle larvae has been reported in apple, pear, and other orchard trees in California, and in apple, pear, and cherry trees in the Mid-Columbia area. Native hosts in the Mid-Columbia area include Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, white fir, white oak, Oregon maple, vine maple and black cottonwood. *P. oregonensis* also feeds on sagebrush.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Larvae live in the soil in the root zone and feed on fibrous roots, main roots, and underground portions of the trunk. Feeding injury may be shallow or deep and looks like patches or winding bands on the root. Affected bearing fruit trees are low in vigor and have sparse foliage and low yields.

References:

Reidi, H., Beers, E.H. (2007) Rain Beetles. Retrieved from <http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=630>