

TWO SPOTTED STINK BUG

Background Two spotted stink bug is one of the most dominant stink bug species in South African macadamia orchards. It is a native species present in all main macadamia growing regions and occurs throughout the year. However, it is particularly prevalent during summer. It is a significant pest of macadamia, causing both early and late stink bug damage.

Scientific name

*Bathycoelia
distincta*

Family

Pentatomidae

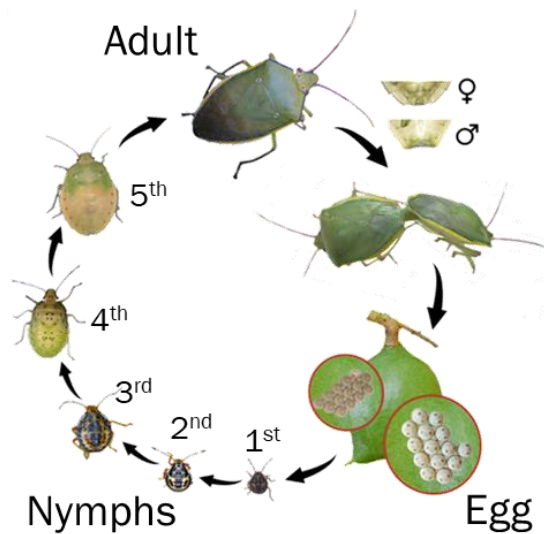
Insect type

Sap sucking

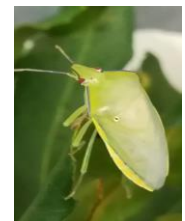
Biology Female two spotted stink bugs deposit eggs on the nuts, leaves, branches and main stems of macadamia trees. Once the eggs have hatched and the nymphs have reached a certain developmental stage, they penetrate the macadamia nut with their stylets and feed on the sap. The adult stage can fly and may either remain in the macadamia orchard or relocate to an alternative host, such as mango, avocado, pecan, litchi, granadilla, ginger or kei apple.



Adult



Life cycle The entire life cycle takes approximately 48 days to complete, depending on temperature. Under laboratory-controlled conditions ($25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$, $20 \pm 5\%$ relative humidity, 16L:8D photoperiod), the two spotted stink bug can undergo up to 8 generations per year.

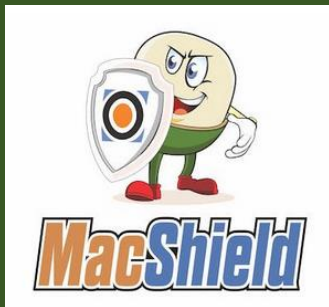




Symptoms

- Early and late stink bug damage
- Necrotic lesions or white feeding marks
- Premature nut drop

For information about registered products for stink bugs refers to



Description The eggs are round (~ 1.5 mm) and occur in clusters of 14. They are cream coloured and prior to hatching 2 spots appears on the shell. There are five nymphal stages, ranging from 2.5 mm to 9 mm in length. Young nymphs have dark blue and red spots on their abdomen, which fade as they develop. The body colour also changes from cream to light green. Adults are green with a yellow rim around their abdomen. They are approx. 18 mm long and have distinct white spots on the top corners of their scutellum.



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References

Muluvhahothe, M. M., Joubert, E., & Foord, S. H. (2023). Thermal tolerance responses of the two-spotted stink bug, *Bathycoelia distincta* (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae), vary with life stage and the sex of adults. *Journal of Thermal Biology*, 111, 103395.

Schoeman, P.S. (2013). Phytophagous stink bugs (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae; Coreidae) associated with macadamia in South Africa. *Open J. Anim. Sci.* 3, 179-183.

Photos by: Elisa Pal, Byron Sonnekus and Ashleigh Smith



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