Red Bug (*Scantius aegyptius*)

**Distribution**: Widely distributed from southwestern Europe and northern Africa to Central Asia. Introduced into the U.S.: California.

**Hosts and Damage**: In California feeding was recorded on seeds and stems of Cheeseweed mallow (*Malva parviflora*) and Knotweed (*Polygonum spp.*). Heavy infestations are usually observed around residential properties adjacent to empty lots covered with weeds. Large populations dispersing late in the season (from dying host plants) can be a nuisance in metropolitan areas.

**Field ID**: Adults (about 7-8.5 mm long) have elongate, predominantly bright red colored bodies with characteristic black markings. Head, antennae and legs are black. Females are slightly larger than males. Nymphs are mostly red with indistinct black markings that become darker and more conspicuous in later stages.