

## 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.

