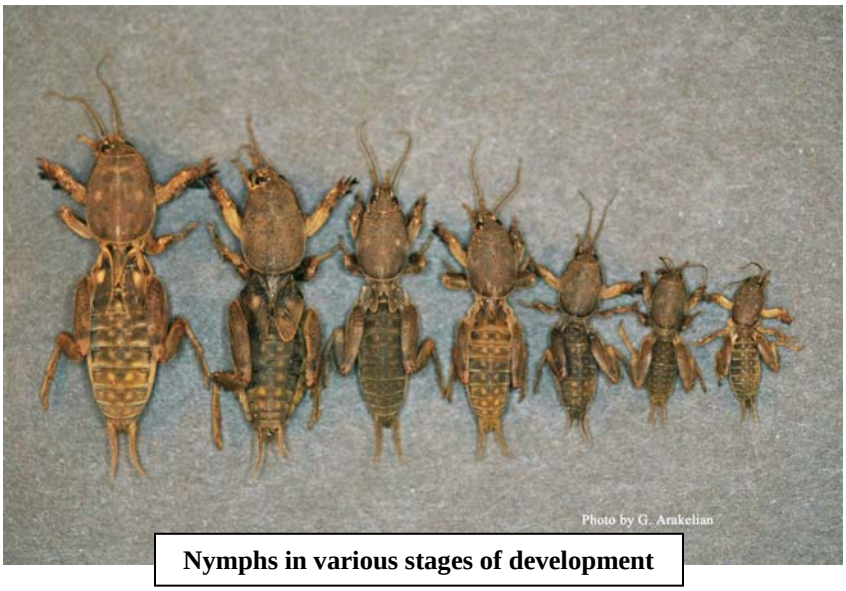
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

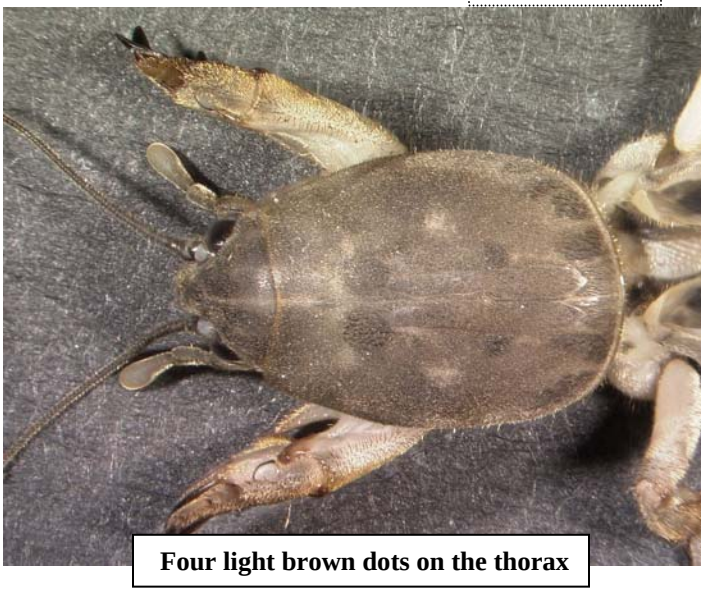
Southern Mole Cricket *(Scapteriscus borellii)*

Distribution: Originated in South America. Introduced into the U.S. and currently widespread from Florida to Texas with isolated population located in southwestern Arizona. Found in California in October, 2007.
Diet and damage: *S. borellii* diet mainly consists of various, mostly soil-dwelling, invertebrates, and it can also include some plant material. Tunneling and excavation of soil may cause damage to turf and destroy seedlings of plants.
Field ID & life cycle: Adults and nymphs have mostly dark brown bodies with some light brown markings. Dorsal side of the thorax often with four distinctive light brown dots. Forelegs are enlarged and designed for digging. Tibiae on the forelegs are armed with two dactyls that have widely separated bases. The forewings of adults do not reach the tip of the abdomen. The hind wings are pointed (when at rest), longer than forewings, and overlap the abdomen. Adults are able to fly. Flights usually start soon after sunset and last about an hour. Young nymphs resemble adults, but are wingless and develop short wings in later juvenile stages. Normally, *S. borellii* has one generation per year, but in some tropical regions it may have a two-generation life cycle. **Eggs** light brown, oval. They are laid in groups (25-60 eggs) in underground chambers.

Adult

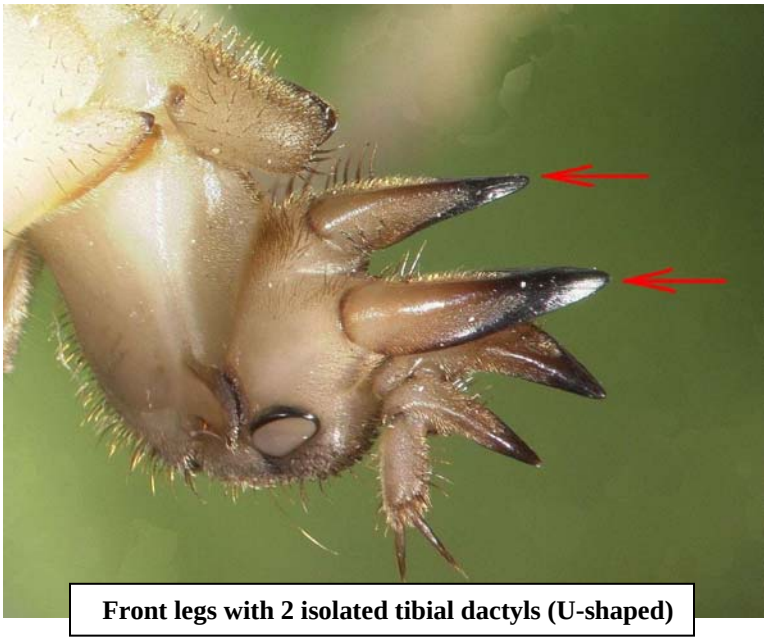


Nymphs in various stages of development



Four light brown dots on the thorax

Anterior view of the body



Front legs with 2 isolated tibial dactyls (U-shaped)

S. borellii excavations and tunneling on the golf course

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