Bagrada Bug *(Bagrada hilaris)*

Other common name:
Painted bug.

Distribution: Known from Africa, Southern Asia and Southern Europe. Introduced into the U.S.: California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Texas.

Field ID: Adults (5-7 mm long) have black, shield-shaped bodies with distinctive white and orange markings. Females are larger than males. Nymphs pass through 5 instars. First instar has reddish-brown head, thorax and bright red abdomen. Later instars become darker (adding black color to their body) and develop wing pads. Eggs are oval, creamy-white and turn orange as they age. Females lay them in the soil beneath host plants, but may also oviposit on the leaves.

Adults & nymphs on Alyssum plants

Damage on Japanese radish (Daikon)

Hosts and damage: A major pest of crop plants from Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) family (cabbage, kale, turnip, cauliflower, mustard, broccoli, radish, etc.) in many parts of the Old World. Attacks also papaya, potato, maize, sorghum, cotton and others. Adults and nymphs suck juices of host plants, leave large stippled or wilted areas on the leaves and often stunt the growth of newly formed central shoots or heads of plants. Populations can build up quickly reaching pest proportions.

Affected organic leafy greens