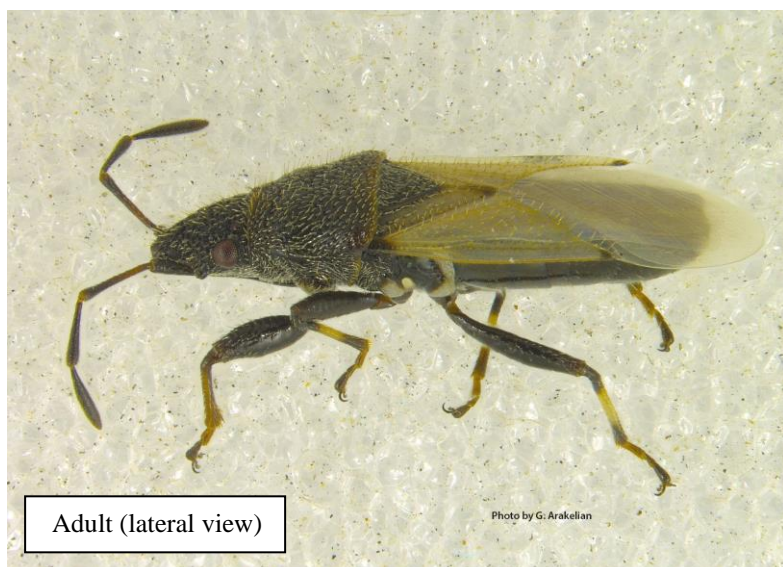


Cotton Seed Bug (*Oxycarenus hyalinipennis*)



Adult (dorsal view)



Adult (lateral view)

Other named used: Dusty cotton stainer.

Distribution: Widely distributed in Africa, Asia, Europe, in the Caribbean Basin and South America. In 2010 it was detected in Florida and subsequently eradicated in 2014.

In 2019 Cotton seed bug was found in Los Angeles and shortly in some other locations of southern California.

Field ID: Adults about 3.8-4.3 mm long (females are larger than males). They have brown to brownish-black bodies densely covered with hairs. Heads are pointed anteriorly. Wings are transparent and whitish. Antennae are black except the second segment, which is in part pale yellowish-tan.

Nymphs have brown heads and thoraxes and pink to red abdomens. They pass through 5 instars.

Eggs are oval, yellow to pink.



Nymphs (dorsal view)



Damage to seed pods of Primrose tree (*Lagunaria patersonia*)
Photo by S. Clafford, Orange Co. Agricultural Commissioners' Office

Hosts and damage:

Cotton seed bugs feed mostly on seeds of plants in *Malvaceae* family and are important pests of cotton, hibiscus and okra. They may damage cotton seeds often reducing their weight and color. Damage can significantly affect seed germination. Cotton seed bug may cause staining of cotton lint (as their bodies are crushed during harvesting and industrial processing). They can also feed on leaves, fruit, and branches of several plants outside *Malvaceae* family (mostly to get additional fluids). Among them are apple, avocado, corn, cowpea, ficus, grape, guava, citrus, persimmon, etc.

Cotton seed bugs are gregarious insects, often congregating in large numbers on landscape plants, building walls, windows and around lights and becoming a nuisance pest. Adults and nymphs may emit an unpleasant odor when disturbed or crushed.