

Identification of Insect: Red Cotton Bug

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Identification Marks

Adults may reach a length of 12-13 mm and are of a distinct red-orange color. Head is red with a white collar, abdomen is black and forewings have two black dots. Males are smaller than females. Females can lay up to 130 bright yellow eggs at a time in the soil, nearby the host plants.



Scinetific Classification

Domain: Eukaryota
Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Hemiptera
Suborder: Heteroptera
Family: Pyrrhocoridae
Genus: *Dysdercus*
Species: *D. cingulatus*

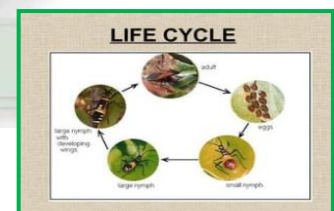
Binomial name: *Dysdercus cingulatus* (Fabricius, 1775)

***Dysdercus cingulatus*:** *Dysdercus cingulatus* is a species of true bug in the family Pyrrhocoridae, commonly known as the red cotton stainer.



Life Cycle

Dysdercus cingulatus grows to a length of 12 to 18 mm (0.47 to 0.71 in). It is mainly red but has a white collar and black hemelytral spots. It is closely related and very similar to *Dysdercus koenigii* but *D. cingulatus* is slightly larger and the femora have varying amounts of black while *D. koenigii* has completely red femora.



Dysdercus cingulatus is a species of true bug in the family Pyrrhocoridae, commonly known as the red cotton stainer. It is a serious pest of cotton crops, the adults and older nymphs feeding on the emerging bolls and the cotton seeds as they mature, transmitting cotton-staining fungi as they do so.

Nature of Damage

Cotton Bug Damage symptoms: The damage is caused by both nymphs and adults by sucking the sap of the plant as well as that of bolls and stain



the lint. They are also, therefore, termed as cotton boll stainers. The bugs are gregarious in habit. Attacked seeds loose viability.

Control Measures

- Biocontrol agent *Harpactor costalis ispredaceous* on nymph and adult.
- Since the pest feeds gregariously, the infested leaves or bolls can be shaken in water and drowned.
- Plough the field to expose the eggs.
- Spray fluvalinate 25 EC 200-400 ml/ha or endosulfan 35 EC 750 ml/ha.