



## Class Insecta, Insects

### Order Hemiptera, True bugs

Hemiptera means “half wing” and refers to the fact that the front half of the first pair of wings is toughened and hard, while the back of the first pair and the second pair are membranous. Hemipterans also have piercing and sucking mouthparts; some suck plant juices and are plant pests, while others are predators and can inflict a painful bite. The order includes both crop and animal pests, as well as beneficial predators.

## Pirate bugs

Family Anthracoridae

**Description and life history:** Adults are 3 mm long, and oval with black and white wing patches. Nymphs are yellow-orange to brown and teardrop shaped. One generation takes 20 days to complete. They are multivoltine.

**Prey species:** Adults and nymphs both feed on spider mites, insect eggs, aphids, thrips, scales and small caterpillars. They capture and cut a hole in their victim, pumping saliva into the hole and drinking the contents. *Orius* species are often reared and released in greenhouses against mites and thrips.



*Orius insidiosus*, insidious flower bug feeding on a thrips. (W41)

Photo: Whitney Cranshaw



*Orius insidiosus*, insidious flower bug adult. (328)

Photo: unknown



*Orius insidiosus*, insidious flower bug nymph. (329)

Photo: unknown