



## Class Insecta, Insects

### Order Hemiptera, True bugs

Hemiptera means “half wing” and refers to the fact that the top half of the first pair of wings is toughened and hard, while the bottom of the first pair and the second pair are membranous. Hemipterans also have modified 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.

## Plant or leaf bugs

Family Miridae

**Description and life history:** Adults are oval, shiny, dark olive with pale markings, and are 3.5–4.0 mm long. *Deraeocoris nebulosus* adults have a small dot at the tip of each wing that helps distinguish it from other species in the genus. Nymphs are pale gray, with the early instars having a red tinge.

**Prey species:** Plant bugs are commonly phytophagous, but some species are generalist predators of plant-feeding insects and mites and are associated with many common pests of ornamental trees and shrubs. They capture and cut a hole into their prey, pumping saliva into the hole and drinking the contents. *Deraeocoris nebulosus* is a predator of lace bugs.



Plant bug adult (left) and nymph (right). (331)  
Photo: David Laughlin



*Deraeocoris nebulosus* adult was found feeding on eggs of the oak lace bug. (332)  
Photo: John Davidson