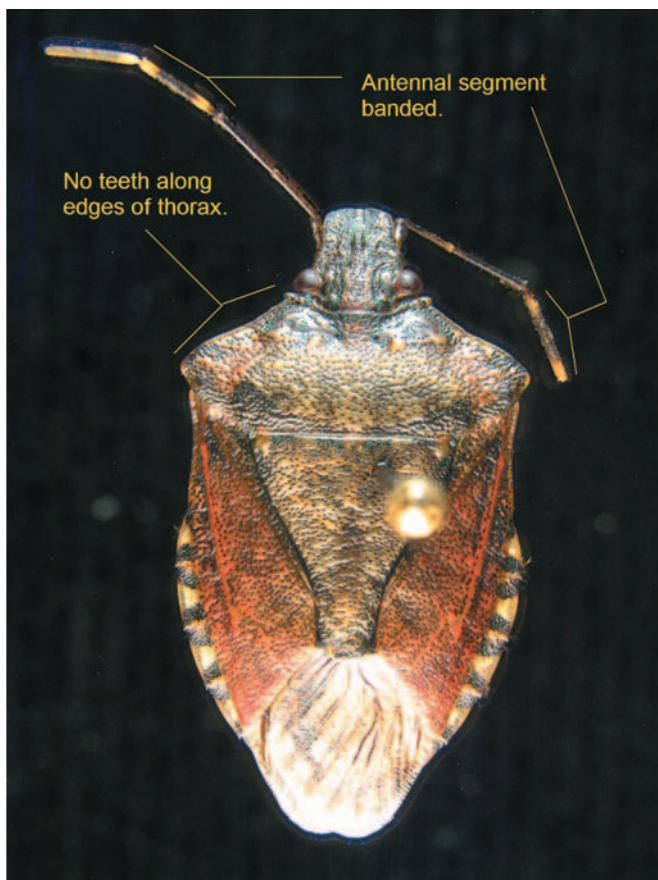


# Pest Alert: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug



The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, *Halyomorpha halys*.



A Rough Stink Bug, *Brochymena quadripustula*.

An invasive exotic insect pest new to the Pacific Northwest, the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), *Halyomorpha halys* (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae), was recently found in Oregon. A single specimen was collected August 4, 2004 in samples from a woodboring insect trap placed in the Ladd's Addition neighborhood of Portland. As of mid-February, 2005, 6 additional specimens have been found, all from Portland and it is believed that BMSB is truly established in Oregon.

BMSB is an Asian insect known from China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. Specimens were first found in the United States in 1996, but not identified until 2001. Before the Portland specimen was found, it was only known in the U.S. from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and West Virginia. It is not known how this pest was introduced into the U.S., although it may have hitchhiked on cargo or cargo containers from Asia.

BMSB is considered a major agricultural pest in Asia, where it attacks and damages a wide variety of crops, including apples, pears, peaches, citrus, persimmon, and soy beans. It is known to feed on over 70 species of plants. Some Pennsylvania organic farmers have already experienced heavy damage to their fruit harvest by this invasive insect. Similar crops, as well as ornamental and nursery plants, in the Pacific Northwest could be threatened by BMSB if it becomes established and widespread in the region.

Like several other insects in Oregon, such as box elder bugs and the Asian multicolored lady beetle, BMSB invades houses in the fall and early winter seeking shelter for the winter. Where BMSB has become established, it can enter homes by the hundreds and thousands, which can be very disturbing to the residents. These bugs are harmless to people, although as the name suggests, they can release an unpleasant odor when disturbed.

During the fall and early winter, BMSB could be found on the outsides of buildings or inside near doors and windowsills. There are several native stinkbugs that closely resemble BMSB. Rough stink bugs, *Brochymena quadripustulata* and its relatives, can be quite commonly encountered. As the above pictures illustrate, adult rough stink bugs can be easily distinguished from adult BMSB. Rough stink bugs have distinct teeth on the edges of the thorax (just behind the head) and all the antennal segments are one color. BMSB have no teeth on the edges of the thorax and the last two antennal segments have white bands.

If you think you've found BMSB, please contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline, 1-866-INVADER (1-866-468-2337) or e-mail ODA's taxonomic entomologist, James LaBonte, at [jlabonte@oda.state.or.us](mailto:jlabonte@oda.state.or.us).