

### **Bean Plataspid found in NE Georgia Soybean Fields**

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The Bean Plataspid, *Megacopta cribraria* (Hemiptera: Plataspidae), has recently been observed infesting soybeans in NE Georgia. On July 1, 2010, Dr. John All, UGA research entomologist, and Bobby Smith, CEC Morgan County, observed Bean Plataspids infesting soybeans in Oconee and Morgan counties. This insect is not native to Georgia or the U.S. and was first observed last fall aggregating on homes and other structures and feeding on kudzu in several NE Georgia counties. The pest is native to India and China, where it feeds on kudzu. It has also been reported as a pest of numerous legume crops, including soybeans. To date the furthest south the bug has been observed is in Putnam County (communication with Dr. David Buntin, UGA research entomologist). The bug has also been observed in Hart and Elbert Counties.

Since its detection in soybeans, we have been actively searching the literature for additional information on the pest status and management of the Bean Plataspid in soybeans. Unfortunately we have found minimal information on management and control.

The majority of soybeans we have observed which are infested with Bean Plataspids are vegetative or in early bloom. Adults have been observed feeding on the main stem of plants and on foliage. We are not sure if vegetative soybeans are being economically damaged but high populations have been observed feeding on plants in some fields. There appears to be a significant edge effect with higher populations be observed on edges compared with the infer portions of fields. It will be important for growers to monitor fields infested with the bug when pods begin forming. If feeding is occurring on pods or blooms, treatment with insecticide would be recommended based on available information. We have observed a single Group IV soybean field in Hart County which had begun settings pods and did not observe the bugs feeding on pods. Based on limited observation, pyrethroids and Lorsban appear to have insecticidal activity on the Bean Plataspid. Bean Plataspid eggs hatch in 4-5 days and the nymphal stage will likely be 25-30 days. We will continue to provide updates as we learn more.

