

Golden Rain Tree Bug (*Jadera* spp.)

Introduced: Native to the United States. Two species of golden rain tree bug are found in Florida, *Jadera antica* and *J. haematoloma*, but only the latter species is common in Florida.

Current Infestation: The golden rain tree bug is found throughout the Florida peninsula, but seems to be scarce in the panhandle. This insect has been reported from some of the southeastern states west to Texas and California, several central states, and from Mexico, the West Indies, southward to Central America and Colombia, and Hawaii.

Description/Biology: The golden rain tree bug is also known as the *Jadera* bug, red shouldered bug, and soapberry bug.

Nymphs (immature stages) of both species are predominantly bright red with the thorax, antennae, beak, and legs being black to brown. As they mature, they develop black markings and wing pads.

The adult (*J. haematoloma*) has red eyes and red shoulders, and red on the border area around the abdomen. Adults are flat, about ½ inch (1.3 cm) long and ⅓ inch (0.8 cm) wide.

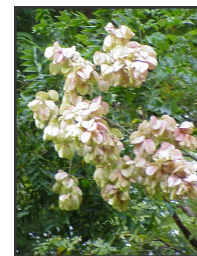


The color for *J. antica*, the less common species, is basically brown to red with the abdomen sprinkled with darker red spots.

Golden rain tree bugs are often confused with the boxelder bug (*Boisea trivittatus*) and cotton stainer bugs (*Dysdercus suturellus*), which are in the same insect family. Boxelder bugs have red wing edges and a red line behind the head. Cotton stainer bugs have whitish wing edges and a red triangle behind the head (between the forewings).

Seasonality: The golden rain tree bug (*J. haematoloma*) in southern Florida can be found throughout the year, with no distinct peak season. In central Florida, it's more commonly found in late spring and early summer with May being the peak month. *J. antica* has been collected only a few times in Monroe and Miami-Dade Counties, and once in Osceola.

Hosts: Golden rain tree bugs have a preference for the following plants: golden rain tree (*Koelreuteria* spp.), chinaberry (*Melia azederach*), and balloonvine (*Cardiospermum* spp.) which grow in southern Florida.

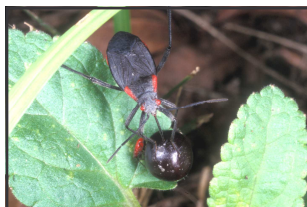


Golden rain tree

Golden Rain Tree Bug (*Jadera* spp.)

Importance: The golden rain tree bug is not an important pest, however, it can occasionally be a nuisance.

Damage: Although not an important pest, these bugs most commonly feed on fruit and seeds of its host plants, but can also feed on the leaves and stems.



The golden rain tree bug does not generally cause any serious damage, but hundreds of these insects may be found congregating on the lawn, on host trees, or on nearby structures. If they find their way into homes, they may cause spotting on walls or clothing.



Management: In most instances, no attempts to control the golden rain tree bug are necessary. A small concentration on a plant often can be destroyed by hand collecting. If the bugs are a nuisance in lawns or playgrounds, raking to remove the seeds that the bugs are feeding on should be helpful.

Homeowner - Rake up seed pods and knock bugs off the plant with a strong

stream of water. Avoid crushing the insects since they can stain. If large numbers are a problem outdoors or indoors, they can be easily vacuumed up.

Professional and Grower - This pest does not generally require pesticide treatment. However, if it is necessary to use an insecticide, products that contain a pyrethroid (bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, deltamethrin; i.e. Talstar, Decathlon, Deltagard, Discus, Tempo) or carbaryl (Sevin) may control this insect. Systemic products that contain acephate (Orthene) or a neonicotinoid such as imidacloprid (Merit/Marathon), acetamiprid (TriStar), or thiamethoxam (Flagship) may also provide some control. Only use pesticides for control of this insect when absolutely needed.

Websites:

http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/trees/jadera_bugs.htm

<http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu/IPM/Jadera.htm>

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