

VIBURNUM LEAF BEETLE

[*Pyrrhalta viburni* Paykull]



Fig.1

UGA 9005048

Problem: Native to most of Europe, the viburnum leaf beetle (VLB) (Fig. 1) feeds on, defoliates and can eventually kill viburnum shrubs.^{1,3,5} VLB only feeds on Viburnum species.^{1,4} Susceptible species include: the *V. dentatum* complex (arrowwood viburnums), *V. opulus* (European cranberry bush), *V. opulus* var. *americana* (American cranberry bush), and *V. rafinesquianum* (Rafinesque viburnum), and to a lesser extent, *V. lantana* (wayfaringtree viburnum), *V. lentago* (nannyberry), *V. prunifolium* (blackhaw viburnum), and *V. sargentii* (Sargent viburnum).^{3,4}

Identification: Larvae (Fig. 2) hatch in May^{1,3,5} and feed until mid-June, then pupate.^{1,4,5} Adults emerge in July and feed until leaf drop.^{1,5} Adults (Fig. 1) are 4.5 - 6.5 mm long,^{1,5} yellowish brown to light brown. Oviposition (egg laying) sites are arranged in straight rows on the undersurface of terminal twigs.^{1,4,5} A distinct protective “cap” covers each oviposition site.^{1,4,5} Mature larvae are larger than the adults about (10 - 11 mm),^{4,5} shiny, white or pale green to yellow/brown, and covered with dark spots and dashes.^{1,4}



Fig. 2

UGA 9005045

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Fig. 3

UGA 1300004



Fig. 4

UGA 1300014

Signs and Symptoms: Larvae feed on the areas between leaf veins, resulting in skeletonized leaves (Fig. 3).^{1,4,5} Larval damage is seen from late April through the summer.^{1,5} Adults chew irregular circular to elliptical holes in the leaves.⁵ Adult damage can be seen from late June until leaf drop in fall.^{4,5} Oviposition sites are also visible on terminal twigs (Fig. 4).

Similar Species: No similar species are found feeding on viburnum. The related Galerucella (*Neogalerucella*) beetle (Fig. 5), which is used as a biological control for purple



loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.), looks similar but is slightly smaller and does not attack viburnum shrubs.²

Fig. 5 UGA 2158020