

## Dirt-colored seed bug, *Rhyparochromus vulgaris* \_Gallatin Valley

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[Lauren.kerzicnik@montana.edu](mailto:Lauren.kerzicnik@montana.edu)

The dirt-colored seed bug is invading homes in the Gallatin area. Dozens of these insects are congregating on the outside of buildings and entering homes. Similar reports occurred in 2013.



Figure 1. *Rhyparochromus vulgaris* adult. Photo by Mike Mike McPherson.

It is an introduced species from the northern Adriatic region of central Europe but is established in Montana. Its behaviors are similar to those of the boxelder bug; it also likes to congregate on the sunny sides of structures and can be a nuisance pest. They hibernate as adults in cracks and crevices and leaf litter and can reach high numbers in the home. Their size is 7-8mm.

For control, screening or sealing cracks or other entrances into the dwelling is important. Once they have entered the home, control becomes more challenging. You can use a vacuum cleaner to get rid of the ones that have already entered your home. Perimeter sprays on the foundation can also help, particularly on south and south-facing outside walls. Some of the active ingredients include bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, permethrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, carbaryl, and malathion.

*Disclaimer:*

*These recommendations are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. Due to constantly changing labels and product registration, some of the recommendations given in this writing may no longer be legal by the time you read them. If any information in these recommendations disagrees with the label, the recommendation must be disregarded. No endorsement is intended for products mentioned. The authors and Montana State University assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.*