

Background

Carpophilus truncatus is one of the most damaging insect pests in Australian almonds, causing significant losses in crop value due to kernel damage. Agriculture Victoria has developed a monitoring trap for this pest, with beetle catches averaging over 95% *C. truncatus* during large-scale trapping trials and in some monitoring traps.

At the edge of orchards however, the proportion of *C. truncatus* can sometimes be considerably lower (e.g. 50% of the catch). In all cases so far, the remainder of the catch has been almost entirely *Carpophilus hemipterus* - a common pest of many fruit crops but not seen to damage almonds. Separating *C. hemipterus* from the rest of the catch will therefore provide a reasonable idea of the proportion of the catch that is *C. truncatus*.

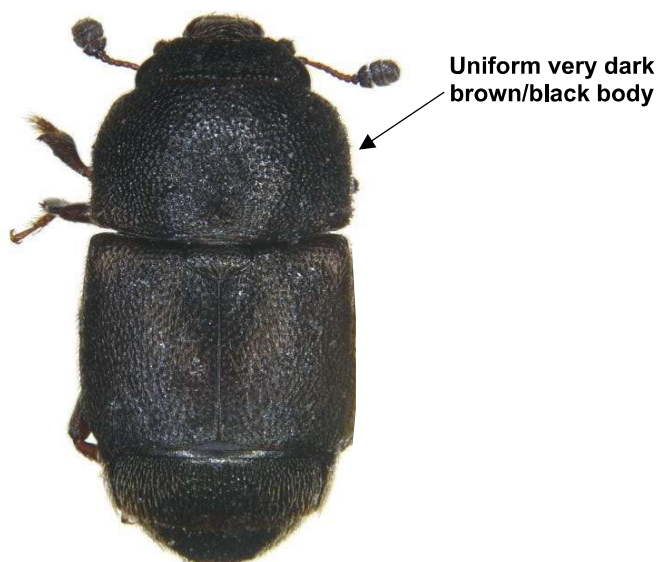
Identification

Although both species are similar in size (~2.5–3.5mm), the differences in body colour shown below allow *C. hemipterus* to be easily separated from the catch. If the catch is large, take a subsample of about 1ml (approx. 200 beetles). Count the *C. hemipterus* as you remove them from your sample, then count the beetles left in your sample (leftover).

The estimated proportion of *C. truncatus* in your total catch = leftover beetles (i.e., non-*C. hemipterus*) / total beetles.

The estimated number of *C. truncatus* in your total catch = total beetle volume (ml) x 200 x estimated proportion of *C. truncatus*.

Carpophilus truncatus



Carpophilus hemipterus

