

Twice-stabbed lady beetles (*Chilocorus stigma*)

Identification

The twice-stabbed lady beetle exhibits the standard lady beetle body shape, is 1.5 to 5 mm in size, but has a characteristic shiny black body with two red spots on the wings. The larvae are alligator-shaped with prominent spines and often go unnoticed as they hide under the body of their prey.

Preferred food

Chilocorus species commonly feed on scale insects. They will also prey on aphids, adelgids, and other soft-bodied insects.



Above Left and Right: Chilocorus stigma on Thuja with scale insects.

Life cycle

The twice-stabbed ladybeetle overwinters as an adult and appears very early in the spring, often in April. It is commonly seen on plants with a high population of overwintering scale.

Status in ornamental plants

This pretty lady beetle is a joy for landscape managers. It is a common sight in juniper plantings affected by juniper scale. Feeding by adults and larvae can provide reasonable control of the scale crawlers.