

Koa Bug



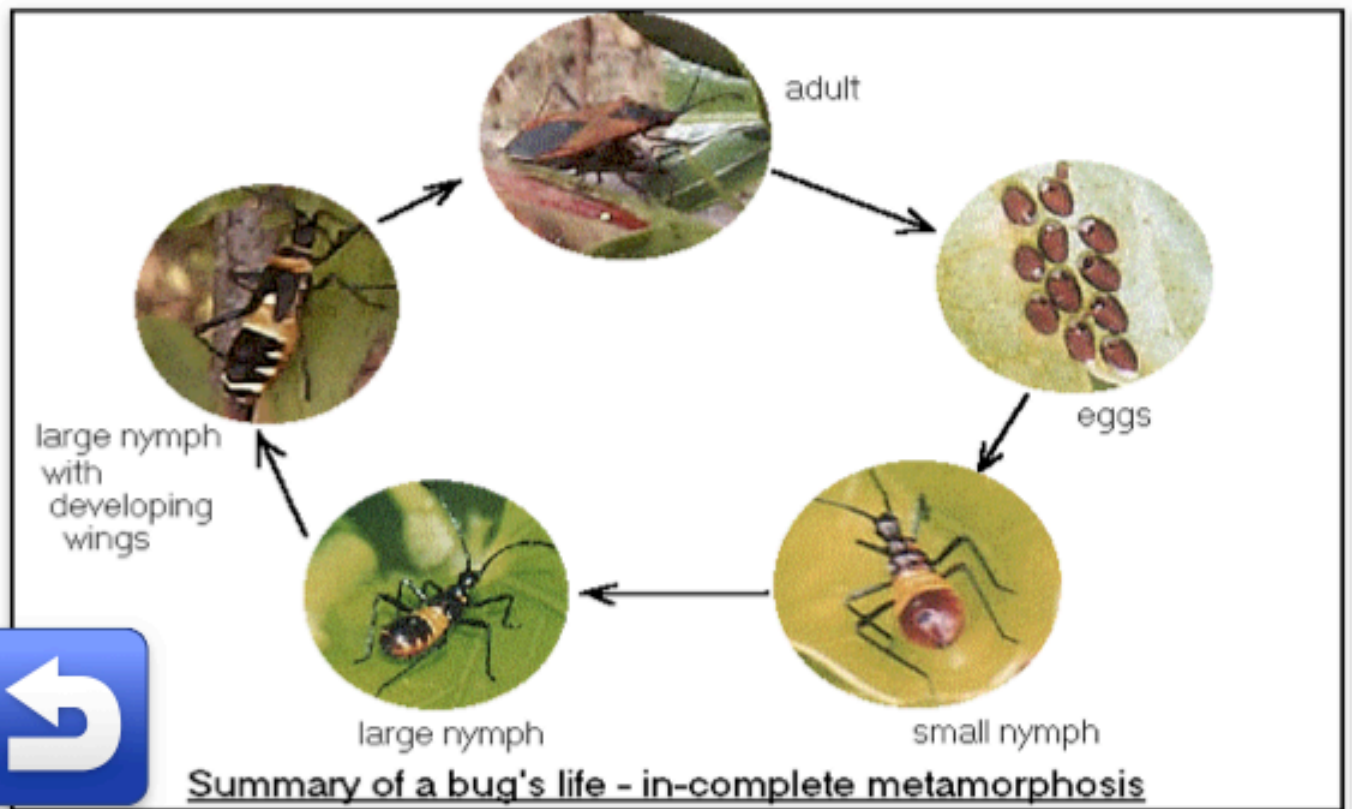
Life Cycle

Description

Interesting Facts



Koa Bug Life Cycle



Koa Bug Description



COLORS

The koa bugs, which have bodies that reflect almost all the colors of the rainbow, are only found in Hawai`i and are commonly found on bushes of a`ali`i as well as koa trees (which is how they got their common name). The koa bug is probably the most spectacular of all of our native insects. It has jewel-like reflections all over its body. This endemic insect is found naturally on koa (giving it its name).

Koa bugs have piercing mouthparts with which they can suck the juices from plants or animals - usually plants. Their mouthparts are contained in a beak (or rostrum) which is usually held underneath the body when not in use. The true bugs often have long antennae divided into a small number of segments, and the front wings can be somewhat hardened. Koa bugs have wing covers that overlap.



Koa Bug

Interesting Facts



- * The native koa bug is also known as the "stinkless stink bug." Unlike its mainland pest cousin - the true stink bug, these koa bugs lack the glands that allow real stink bugs to live up to their name.
- * An introduced parasite brought in to kill a similar looking bug pest is unfortunately reducing or eliminating populations of this bug on some of our Hawaiian islands.
- * Like all insects, true bugs use scent and touch to communicate. They may also use their vision, but many species can't see very well. Many true bugs use sound and vibrations to communicate.
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