

***SCYMNUS (PULLUS) CONIFERARUM* (COLEOPTERA:  
COCCINELLIDAE): AN ADELGID PREDATOR NATIVE  
TO THE WESTERN UNITED STATES**

**Michael E. Montgomery<sup>1</sup>, Richard McDonald<sup>2</sup>, and Laura Schwartzberg<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Hamden, CT 06514

<sup>2</sup>Symbiont Biological Pest Management, Sugar Grove, NC 28679

<sup>3</sup>South Salem, NY 01590

**ABSTRACT**

*Scymnus (Pullus) coniferarum* Crotch 1874, the conifer lady beetle (Coccinellidae), is generally distributed in the mountainous areas of the United States west of the Mississippi River, with many collections recorded in California. It is associated with conifers with the type material collected from “pine” (Crotch 1874) and large numbers from lodgepole and Monterey pines infested with adelgid in the genus *Pineus* (see Whitehead, in Gordon 1976).

Adults of *S. coniferarum* were encountered by us during field collection of *Laricobius nigrinus* from *Tsuga heterophylla* during February, April, May, and October in Seattle, WA. The extensive survey of Kohler (2007) in Oregon and Washington found only a single specimen of *S. coniferarum*. We have established a colony of *S. coniferarum* in the laboratory, where it has been reared from egg to adult on *Adelges tsugae* Annand. Currently, we are evaluating its biology and host range.

This species is very similar in appearance to *Scymnus (Pullus) suturalis* Thunberg, a native of Europe that is established in the eastern half of the United States, which is also reported as specific to conifers and has been reported to feed on both pine and hemlock adelgids (Montgomery and Lyon 1998). *S. coniferarum* can be distinguished from *S. suturalis* by its more elongate shape

(L: 1.75 mm, W: 1.15) and with punctures on the elytron, separated by less than the diameter of a puncture.

**Literature Cited**

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