

# The Reduviid Bugs-Farmers Friendly Insects

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**Abstract**—*The reduviids, also known as assassin bugs, are predaceous cimicomorphan bugs with cosmopolitan distribution and belong to Reduviidae family. There are about 7,000 species of reduviids reported worldwide. Two reduviid bugs, Rhynocoris marginatus/R. fuscipes, are important and effective predators of insect pests in many agro-ecosystems viz., soybean, groundnut, pigeonpea, cotton, castor, rice, cabbage, tobacco, pumpkin, okra, citrus, sugarcane, sesbania, apple. Predaceous reduviids are of considerable economic importance because they reduce the pest population by killing the host quickly with their highly proteolytic saliva. When the proteolytic saliva enters into the body the host insect it will melt the body tissues present in the host body and sucked out their body fluid with the help of their rostrum/ beak. These are often brightly coloured bugs with small head, long legs with very well developed segmented rostrum. One female bug lays around 1000-1200 eggs in its total lifeperiod, mostly eggs are laid in groups containing 35-40 eggs, in fresh conditions eggs look cream in colour but before hatching they turn to brown colour and this stage lasts for 7-10 days. There are total of five nymphal instars each nymphal stage will be completed in 7-10 days. For completion of total nymphal stage reduviids take 35-40 days. Total lifecycle (egg- adult formation) these bugs take 50-55 days. Release 2000 bugs per hectare for effective control different caterpillar pests. The effectiveness of the reduviids as biocontrol agents has been demonstrated and the field releases usually resulted in quick and effective control of the target pests.*