

Redbanded Stink Bug

Pest Moves Northward, Has Invaded Arkansas

BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER
MidAmerica Farmer Grower

BRINKLEY, ARK.

The redbanded stink bug has claimed the recent attention of Dr. Scott Akin, Extension and Research Entomologist with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. “This pest has been problematic in Louisiana for the last 8-10 years,” he said. “We have seen

have more prominent shoulders,” Akin explained. “The adult redbanded has a fixed spine on the bottom that arises from the abdomen and points towards the head, but it can be hard to see on some specimens, especially without a hand lens.” One common question that arises regarding redbanded stink bug is related to treatment thresholds. “Since entomologists in Louisiana have dealt



Claiming the attention of Dr. Scott Akin, Extension and Research Entomologist with the University of Arkansas is the redbanded stinkbug.

Photos supplied by Dr. Scott Akin

this pest in Arkansas to some degree the last few years but it really hasn’t caused widespread problems until 2009. This pest seems to be making its way north every year.” “The redbanded stink bug is similar to our more common stink bug species in that it typically shows up late season, and is extremely mobile and selective,” Akin continued. “That said, it is a little bit tougher to control with insecticides, can cause more damage to soybean seed, and may even be more mobile than our more common species. Thus, this could be a more serious stink bug pest than we’re used to. It may not be a statewide problem from year to year, but it’s likely to catch our attention in spots, particularly in South Arkansas.”

The redbanded stink bug was reported in Georgia and Florida in the 1990s, making up around 20 percent of stink bug species composition, according to literature. It was documented in southern Louisiana around 2000 and it started to become problematic in Louisiana and Texas in 2003. “It’s not clear when the species showed up in Arkansas but it was definitely here during my first year here in 2007,” he continued.

The redbanded stink bug is extremely selective and seems to be more mobile than our more common stink bugs. They pick up and move from one field to another, and quickly move into the later maturing fields as earlier fields mature. “One of the observations noted with this particular pest compared to the other stink bug species is that fields seem more likely to be reinfested with redbandeds within a few days after treatment,” Akin reported. “Once you establish acceptable control of green, southern green and brown stink bugs, you may eventually see some levels of reinfestation; but the redbandeds tend to be a different animal. You can make an insecticide application and get good initial control at 3-4 days after treatment, only to have a new flush come in after 7-10 days. This doesn’t happen in every case, but we need to keep our eye out for this scenario.”

Akin says the lack of long-term residual activity from currently-labeled insecticides doesn’t help.

“There are some effective insecticide options for this pest, but an effective insecticide class rotation and label restrictions come into play,” he said. “Endigo, a pre-mix of Centric and Karate, has been on the market for a couple of years now and it has performed consistently well in our field trials. Another pre-mix option for this pest in soybean is Leverage, which contains Trimax and Baythroid. Leverage 360, a new formulation of Leverage, will be available in 2010 as the previous formulation of Leverage is phased out. Products containing acephate (e.g., Orthene) are often effective at higher use rates. Although many labeled pyrethroids may not provide consistent control of redbanded stink bug, products containing the active ingredient bifenthrin such as Fanfare and Discipline have been somewhat successful at higher use rates.”

Akin also noted that the labels of bifenthrin products require a 30-day interval between applications.

“We need to try to adhere to this as best as we can, not only to follow the label, but for resistance management as well,” he added. “Tank-mixing acephate and a pyrethroid such as bifenthrin is also an effective option against this pest, but label guidelines still need to be followed.”

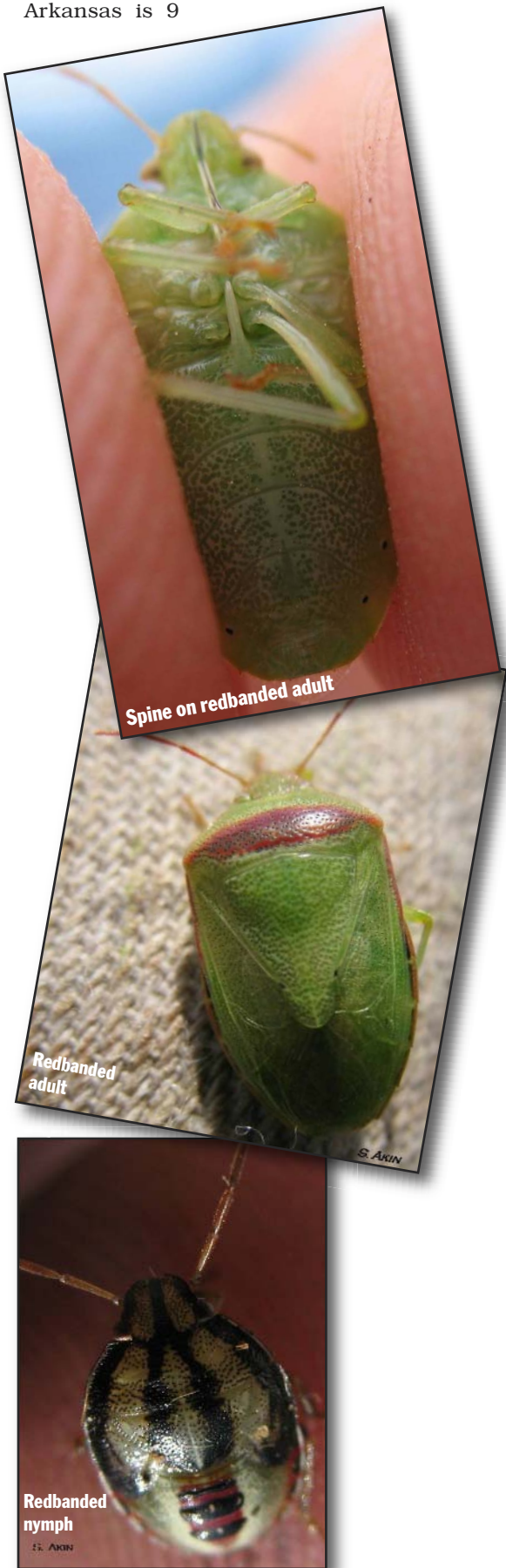
Identification can be challenging at first, especially when another, less common stink bug can be found in Midsouth soybeans.

“Redshouldered stink bug is a species that looks very similar to redbanded, but is not near as problematic. They can be scattered here and there,” he said. “I have seen some cases where treatment decisions were going to be made based on a smattering of redshoulders misidentified as redbandeds, so correct identification is key.”

Adults of both are roughly half the size of the more common green stink bugs, but the shape of the redbanded stink bug is unique. It is more slender, and more rounded in shape than other stink bugs you will find in soybean.

“The adults of redshouldered look like our other stink bugs — they are shield shaped, and

with this pest for a longer period of time, we have been deferring to them for thresholds,” Akin said. “The action threshold for our more common stink bugs in Arkansas is 9



in 25 sweeps. For redbanded stink bug, Louisiana has been using 6 in 25 sweeps with some success, so that is what we recommend for now. Bottom line--we need to get control of populations quicker than our more common stink bug species due to the relative damage they can cause.”

Akin commented on how the cold weather might affect populations in 2010 and beyond.

“As redbanded stink bug is primarily a neotropical pest, I really hope that the cold snaps that Louisiana and we in South Arkansas have sustained this winter will keep populations at bay next year,” he said. “Insect populations are variable from year to year based on several factors, and overwintering mortality is one of them.”

For questions about redbanded stink bug, consult your state extension entomologists or your local county agent. You can also send a digital photo for identification to <akin@ua-mont.edu>.

BETTY VALLE GEGG-NAEGER: Senior Staff Writer, MidAmerica Farmer Grower



Link Directly To: **AGROTAIN**



Link Directly To: **MONSANTO**



Link Directly To: **SYNGENTA**