

Masked Hunter

Typical Location When Observed: Although the masked hunter can be found outdoors, it is almost always encountered within homes or outbuildings.

Importance/Damage: Found in homes occasionally. A predator of other arthropods, it may incidentally bite humans. Bites are painful but not medically important.

Distinguishing Features: The adult masked hunter is very dark brown to black, ranging from 10-12 mm in length. The head is narrow with a prominent beak running below. The fore legs are slightly thickened, an adaptation for grasping prey.

The nymphs are gray-brown. However, they are almost always covered with debris. Where such covering material is abundant the insect is completely obscured and may resemble a walking ball of dust.

General Life History and Habits: The masked hunter is a predator of other insects which they impale and paralyze with piercing mouthparts. The nymphs hunt by ambush and camouflage themselves with lint, sawdust or other debris that clings to their sticky body.

Scientific Name: *Reduvius personatus*

Order: Hemiptera (True Bugs and Relatives)


Family: Reduviidae (Assassin Bugs)



Adult masked hunter



Masked hunter nymph covered with lint

Actual Length


Version: July 30, 2009