

## Colorado Insect of Interest

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# Rough Stink Bugs

**Scientific Name:** *Brochymena* spp.

**Order:** Hemiptera (True Bugs, Aphids, Hoppers, Scale Insects, etc.)

**Family:** Pentatomidae (Stink Bugs)

**Identification and Descriptive Features:** Rough stink bugs are broad bodied and generally flattened. Body length ranges from 13-22 mm in length and they are patterned with mottled gray and black, blending well with bark.



Figure 1. Rough stink bug.

**Distribution in Colorado:** The most widespread species is *Brochymena sulcata* Van Duzee, which can be found throughout the state. *Brochymena affinis* Van Duzee also is widely distributed but most common in the southern half of Colorado. *Brochymena quadripustulata* Fabricius is an eastern Colorado species.

**Life History and Habits:** Rough stink bugs feed primarily on leaves and developing seeds of trees and have been recorded from ash, walnut, willow, boxelder and many other species. However, they do not appear to be associated with any significant plant injuries. In addition, they are occasional predators and have been found feeding on caterpillars and leaf beetle larvae.



Figure 2. Rough stink bug nymph.

Winter is spent in a dormant state in the adult stage, often under the bark of trees or logs. They become active in late April and June. After mating, the females lay elongate, pearly white eggs in masses of 10 to 20. The overwintered bugs usually die before the end of June but the pale colored nymphs hatch from these eggs about two weeks after egg laying. The nymphs feed and develop throughout July with adults typically first being found in August. There is one generation per year.

Although rough stink bugs are common species in the region, their coloration allows them to blend in well with the background and difficult to see. They are perhaps most commonly encountered when they enter homes in fall for winter shelter, or are carried indoors on firewood.