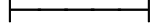


ROVE BEETLES

Rove beetles are often abundant in habitats with large numbers of fly larvae especially around decaying fruit, decaying seaweed and compost. They also prey on mites and nematodes in the soil. Because they are abundant in decaying plants and fruits, people encounter them but often do not recognize them as beetles.

SIZE 
Up to ¾ inch



Notice short wings that do not completely cover abdomen

ADULT

Most rove beetle adults are slender with short elytra (hard wings on the abdomen). The body shape ranges from cylindrical to much flatter, and the abdomen is very muscular and flexible. Adults range from less than 1 mm to 20 mm in Florida although almost all are less than about 7 mm long. Earwigs are often confused with rove beetles. Earwigs have moveable forceps (like pinchers) at the end of the abdomen, while rove beetles NEVER have pinchers. Adults of most rove beetles are nocturnal or at least hide from light during daylight hours. Adults and larvae of these beetles are often general predators, but some are more specialized predators. The larvae of some rove beetles are even parasites of insect eggs, pupae, and small, soft-bodied insects like aphids.

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