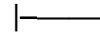


AMBUSH BUGS

Ambush bugs are predators that wait motionless on plants for prey. Ambush bugs are closely related to assassin bugs and are 1/4 to 1/2 inch long. They have front legs fitted for grasping, much like those of the praying mantis. They have small and stout bodies, a wide rear-end, and camouflage coloration. They commonly sit on flowers waiting for insects. They can often be found on flowers of Goldenrod, where their greenish-yellow color allows them to be well hidden. All stages of ambush bugs feed by grabbing prey with their raptorial front legs, jabbing it with sucking mouthparts, injecting an enzyme that digests the body contents of the prey, and sucking the predigested fluid from the prey. They are predators of wasps, caterpillars, flies, and other pests.



SIZE - 1/4-1/2 inch



Picture from

http://stephenville.tamu.edu/~fmitchel/insects/t_1082.htm

Information from: <http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/outreach/good/card10.htm>