

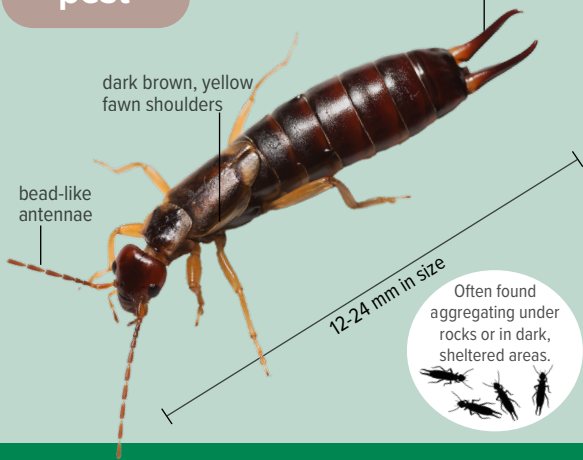
# Invertebrate Knowledge Card

## European earwig

### *Forficula auricularia*

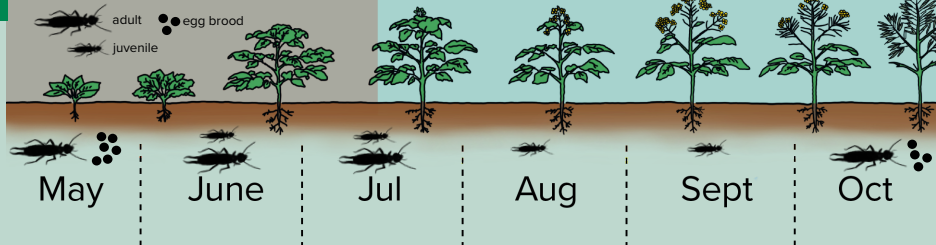
sporadic pest

curved pincers (male) or straight pincers (female)



- Ten earwig species have been identified in Australian grain crops. The European earwig is the most common.
- European earwig may be mistaken for the native brown earwig (*Labidura truncata*), which is a predator of insect pests.
- No-till practices and stubble retention likely produce a favourable environment.

April to mid-July is a key monitoring period. Eggs are laid in April-May and sometimes October.



#### Visual inspection

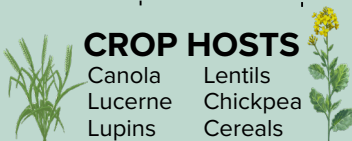
- Look for nests and feeding damage April-July.
- At night inspect paddocks with a torch.
- During the day look under surfaces.

#### Trapping

- Inter-row pitfall traps and cardboard roll traps placed on the ground during establishment to catch juveniles.
- Cardboard roll traps placed in trees to catch adults Nov-March.

#### CROP HOSTS

Canola  
Lucerne  
Lupins  
Lentils  
Chickpea  
Cereals



Often found aggregating under rocks or in dark, sheltered areas.

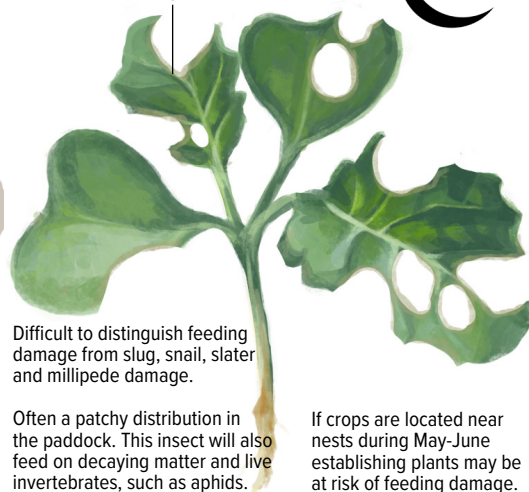


Widespread throughout southern, south-eastern, and south-western regions of Australia.



Damage appears as irregular shaped holes in leaves or shredded foliage.

Mostly active at night



Difficult to distinguish feeding damage from slug, snail, slater and millipede damage.

Often a patchy distribution in the paddock. This insect will also feed on decaying matter and live invertebrates, such as aphids.

If crops are located near nests during May-June establishing plants may be at risk of feeding damage.