

Pests and Diseases: *Banasa* (Stink Bug)

~ Sue van Millingen

In the summer of 2021, I had a HUGE infestation of *Banasa* (Stink Bug) in my very mature *Amelanchier* (saskatoon) bushes. The saskatoon bushes are over 20 years old. I had never encountered this before. The bush is right beside an old stressed Juniper. The Juniper had a tough time in 2021 and is looking much better in 2022.



Banasa or Stink Bug (the green one is upside down)

I reached out to Ken Fry, an Instructor in the School of Life Science & Business at Olds College. His response:

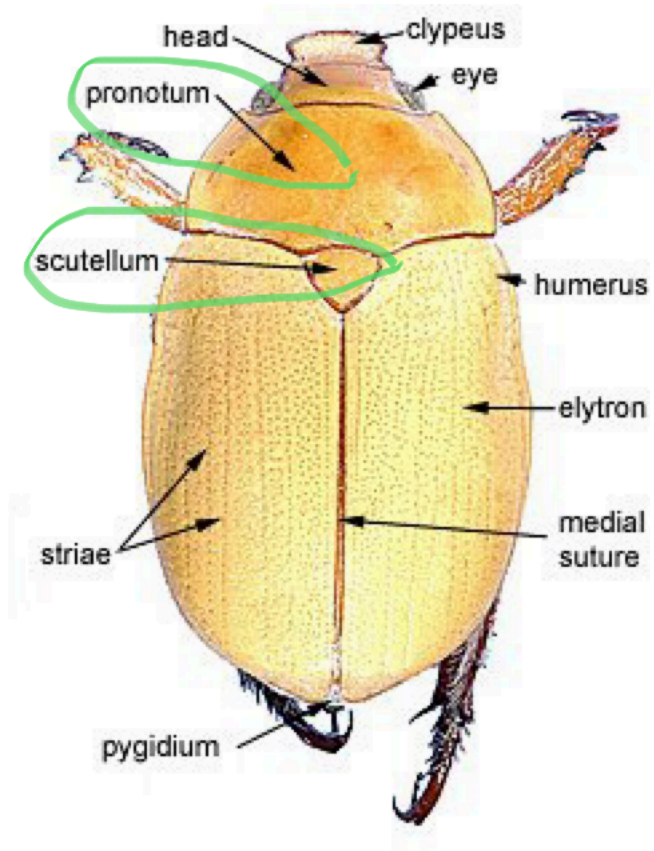
*“It could be *Banasa dimidiata* or *B.calva*. *Banasa dimidiata* tends to have green on the **scutellum** while *B.calva* is all brown from the posterior **pronotum** back. The image you have shared shows a uniformly brown posterior similar to *B.calva*. *Banasa calva* is not very common, whereas *B.dimidiata* is. Neither are considered to be major pests of fruit trees. Here are links to both insects for you to compare.*

<https://bugguide.net/node/view/163319>

<https://bugguide.net/node/view/15349>

*There is one other species, *B.tumidifrons*, that feeds on juniper but this species is known only from the Pacific Northwest.*

I doubt the bugs will cause much damage but it has been a strange summer so there is a possibility. There is hardly any research done on these species.”



This little pest has returned in the Spring of 2022. Will see how many are spotted in the saskatoons this summer.