

# *Aphodius distinctus* – a new pest?



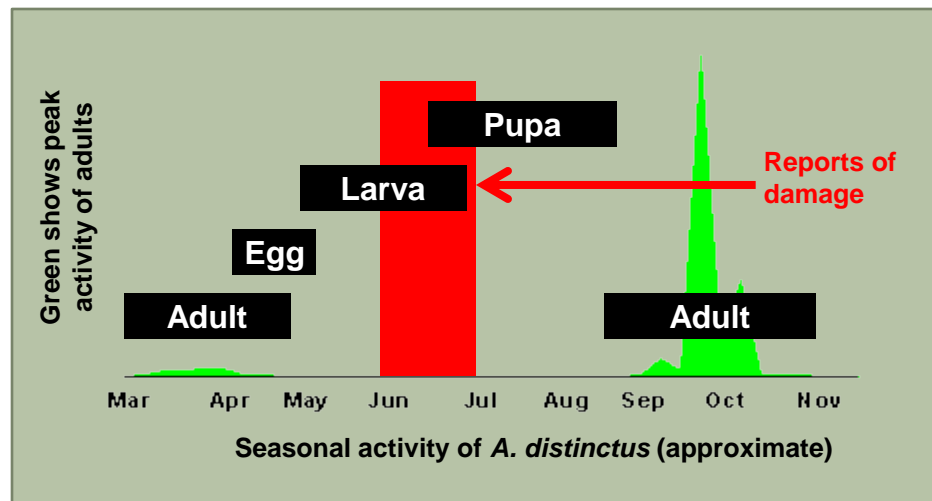
Adult (5-6 mm long)



Larva (3-4 mm)



Pupa (3-4 mm)



- European species of beetle; common across Canada
- adults are yellow and gold; 5-6 mm in length; attracted in large numbers to cattle and horse dung from mid-August through mid-October
- overwintered adults emerge in spring to lay eggs in crop land; larvae develop in the soil through the summer to emerge as new adults in autumn
- scattered reports received each June of large numbers of beetle grubs in crops associated with crop damage; e.g., canola, corn, dry bean, onion, pea

*Aphodius distinctus* reportedly feeds on rotting organic material in soil, but there is a growing suspicion that it may also feed on living roots of plants. Thus, we are trying to answer the following questions: Is *Aphodius distinctus* a pest? What attracts it to certain fields in the spring? What densities are required to see crop damage? Is there a crop preference?

**Please send reports of high white grub densities and associated crop damage to [Kevin.Floate@agr.gc.ca](mailto:Kevin.Floate@agr.gc.ca) (403-317-2242). We would appreciate samples of live larvae and details of field history (Lat./long.? Last year's crop? Irrigated or not? Composted manure added in spring? Surface residue in spring? Thanks!**