

## Cadmus beetles

**Other names:** Cryptocephaline beetles

**Scientific name:** *Cadmus excrementarius*, *Cadmus* spp., *Aporocera melanocephala*, *Apocera apicalis*, *Apocera* spp., *Ditropidus* spp. and *Cudenellia* sp.

**Order:** Coleoptera

**Family:** Chrysomelidae

Species of *Cadmus*, *Apocera* and other related genera are found throughout *E. globulus* growing regions. They generally only cause minor to moderate damage to plantations.

The adult is the only damaging stage. Growing tips of both adult and juvenile leaves are vulnerable, with seedlings and two to four year old trees being affected. In their first year, trees may suffer heavy defoliation leading to the loss of growing tips and shoot excision. In WA, seedling damage by *C. excrementarius* has been observed mainly on their southern side.

Eggs are about 1mm long, yellow and round to oval in shape. Each egg is deposited in a faecal pellet with an opening at one end. These pellets are yellow to brown in colour darkening with age. They drop to the ground and larvae hatch inside working the faecal pellet into an open-ended case which they carry around as they develop. Eventually the larvae close off the opening in the case, and the pupa develops inside. The pupal stage last between 1-2 months. Feeding by adults can usually be distinguished from other insects by the characteristic coils of excrement left on leaves.

Adults begin emerging from their cases during December and continue throughout the summer. Eggs are laid between December and May, with most being deposited during the height of adult feeding and mating in January and February. Larvae are present throughout most of the year but are most obvious during spring when they are large in size. They live on the ground feeding on decaying leaf litter but can also be found on the lower trunk of trees. Larvae may form large feeding aggregations (50-100) around freshly fallen leaves.



*Cadmus excrementarius*

- December - June
- 6-8 mm long
- New growth



2 year-old tree with *C. excrementarius* damage on southern side; swarming *C. excrementarius* feeding on shoot tip

# Chrysomelids



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## *Aporocera melanocephala*

- October - December
- 6-8 mm long
- New growth of adult leaves



© David Wettenhall



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Close up of damage by *Aporocera melanocephala*; 2-3 year-old plantation damaged by *A. melanocephala*. Damage by *A. apicalis* and *C. litigiosus* can also look like this



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## *Cadmus litigiosus*

- January - April
- 6-8 mm long
- New growth



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## *Cadmus ferrugineus*

(*Brachycaulus*)

- March -May
- 5 - 7 mm long
- Juvenile leaves



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## *Cadmus crucicollis*

- October - November
- 6-7 mm long
- New growth of adult leaves, also coppice



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## *Cadmus nothus*

- September
- 8 mm long
- New growth of adult leaves



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## *Cadmus breweri*

(*Lachnabothra*)

- November - December
- 5 mm long
- Leaves



© Ross Gillies

## *Cadmus aurantiacus*

(*species complex*)

- October - December
- 6-8 mm long
- New growth of adult leaves



© Martin Slocombe

## *Aporocera apicalis*

- April - August
- 4 - 5 mm long
- Adult leaves



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## *Cudenellia apicalis*

- September - November
- 4 mm long
- Leaves
- Flightless



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## *Edusella* sp.

- September- Novemeber
- 5 mm long
- Adult and juvenile leaves