

Wingless grasshopper

Scientific name: *Phaulacridium vittatum*

Order: Orthoptera

Family: Acrididae

Wingless Grasshoppers have caused occasional damage to *E. globulus* seedlings in most of southern Australia.

Most damage occurs on areas with bare sandy patches and short pastures, which is the preferred site for egg laying. Spring and summer-green areas ensure high survival rates. Once pastures die-off in late spring or early summer insects are likely to attack trees. Large-scale mortality may occur in eucalypt plantings if control measures are not applied when hatchlings are first observed.

There is only one generation a year. Eggs are laid in sandy soil during summer. Batches of 12-14 eggs are laid in pods. They remain in the soil throughout winter and begin to hatch in September. There are 5 nymphal stages, the first of which is black and about 2 mm long. Most reach maturity by November.

Adults grow up to 20 mm in length and usually have brown with orange hind legs. The markings can be variable, although it is common to see a pale band on each side of the thorax and winglets. Adults generally have non-functional wings although some populations contain individuals with functional wings.



Adult *P. vittatum*