

# Key Features of Common *Lygus* Species in the Central San Joaquin Valley

This handout should be used in conjunction with the detailed explanations and descriptions in **A Field Key to the Most Common *Lygus* Species Found in Agronomic Crops of the Central San Joaquin Valley of California** (UC ANR Publication 8104 or [Lygus.uckac.edu](http://Lygus.uckac.edu))

The characteristics shown here best describe males of each species.

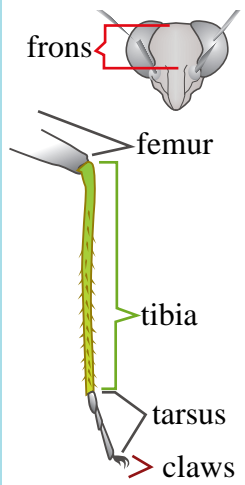


male



female

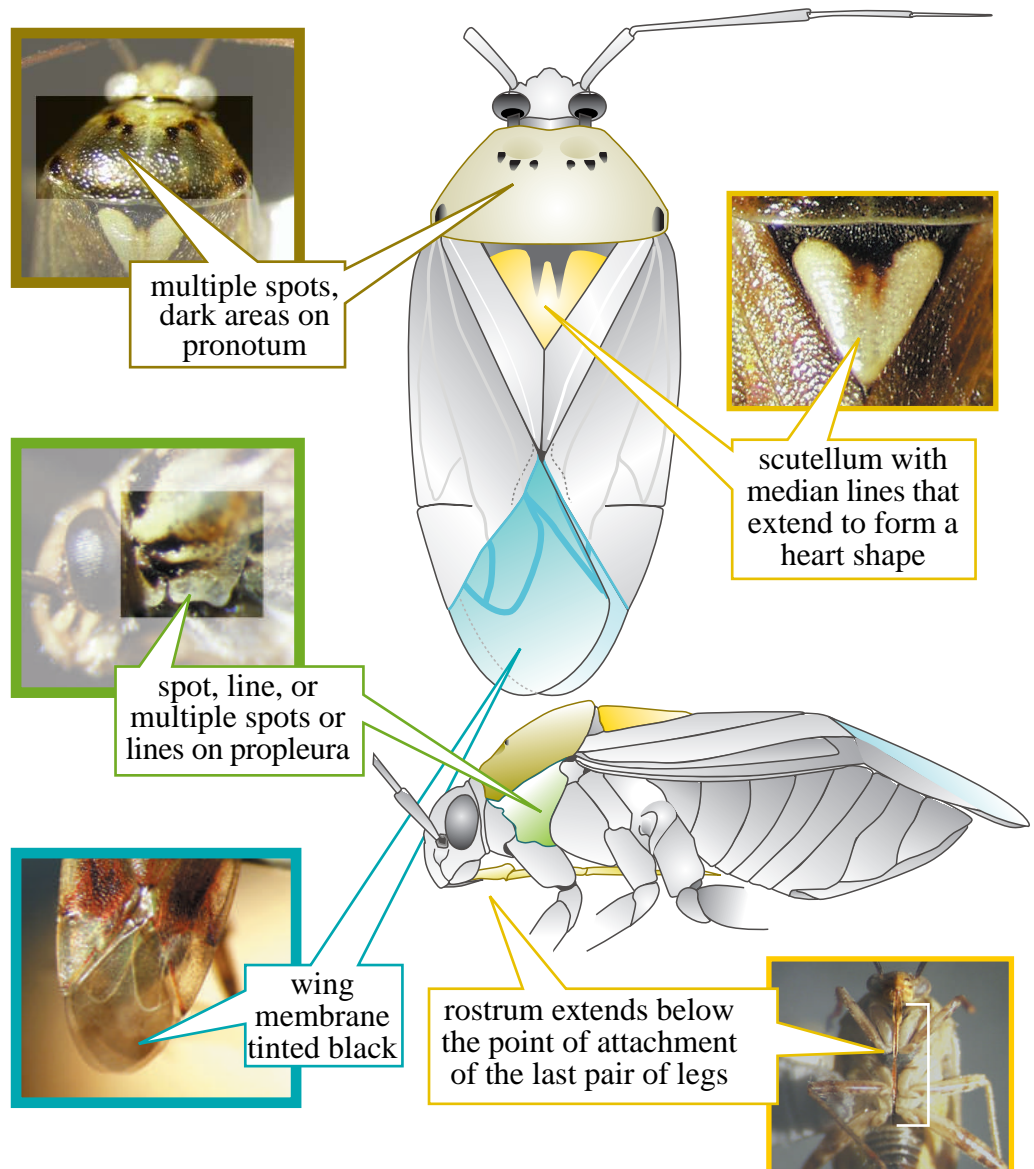
These species all have a **smooth** frons and **yellow** or **green** hind tibia. If your specimen does not exhibit these features, it is NOT one of the species identified in this publication.



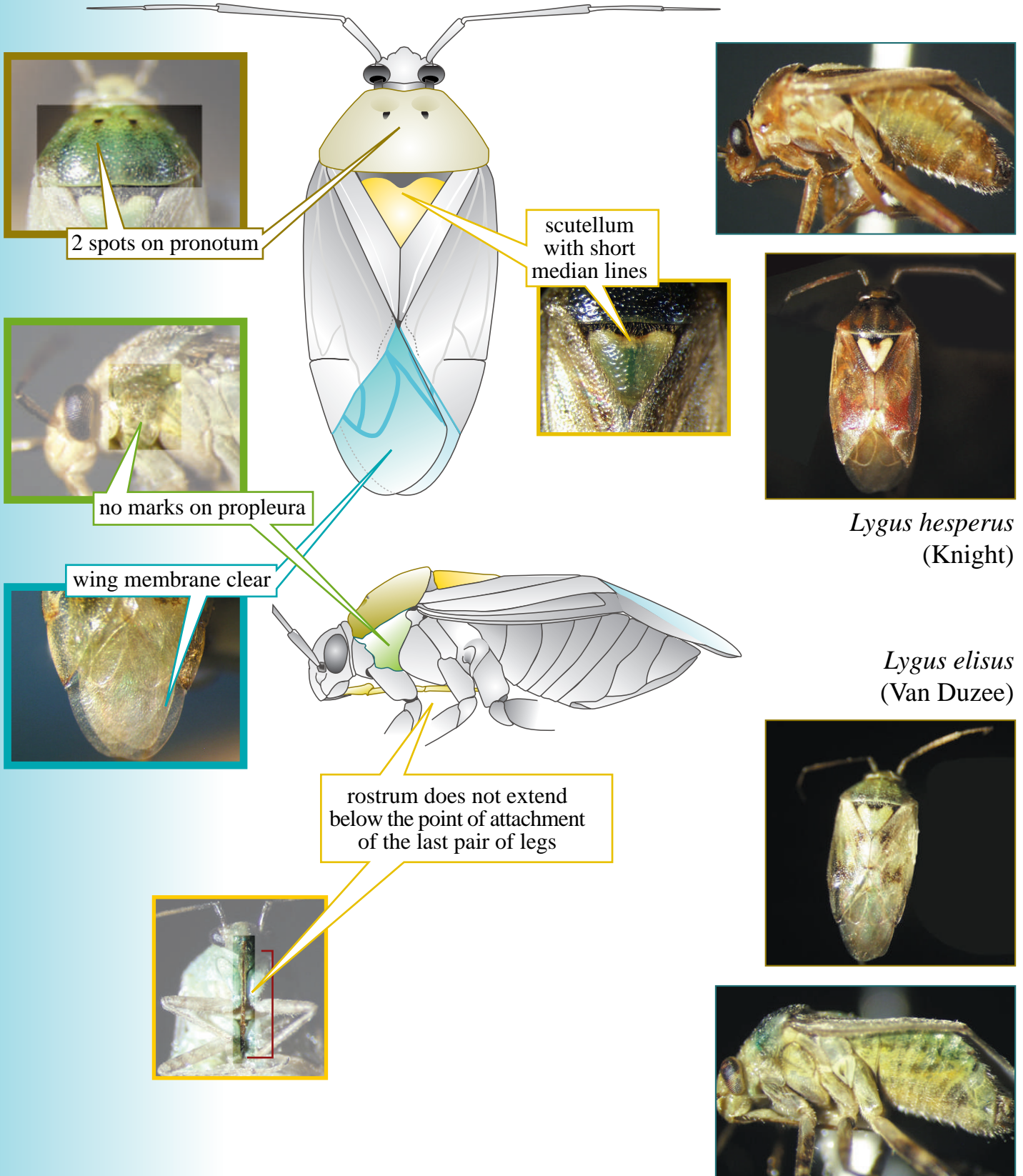
Publication 8105 is a “quick guide” that can be removed from the center of Publication 8104 and used independently once the user is familiar with key characteristics for distinguishing between species.

Examination of three characteristics will usually allow you to determine whether the specimen is *Lygus hesperus* or *Lygus elisus*. The characteristics are observed by examining the pronotum, the propleura, and the wing membrane. To confirm the initial identification based upon the three most reliable characteristics, examine the shape of the scutellum and the relative length of the rostrum.

## Western Tarnished Plant Bug *Lygus hesperus* (Knight)



# Pale Legume Bug *Lygus elisus* (Van Duzee)



2 spots on pronotum

scutellum with short median lines

no marks on propleura

wing membrane clear

rostrum does not extend below the point of attachment of the last pair of legs

*Lygus hesperus*  
(Knight)

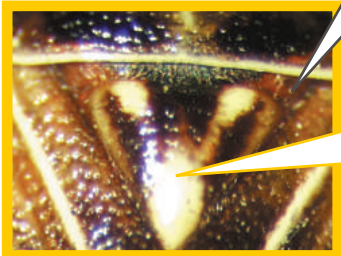
*Lygus elisus*  
(Van Duzee)

# Tarnished Plant Bug *Lygus lineolaris* (Palisot de Beauvois)

*Lygus lineolaris* is most easily characterized by the presence of submedian vittae on the frons, and yellow or reddish lateral margins on the mesoscutum. The scutellum has both median and lateral lines.



frons with submedian vittae



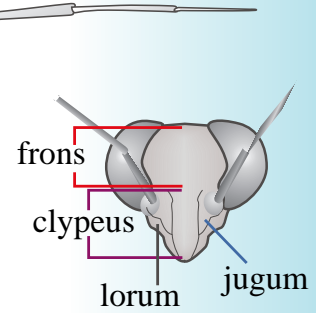
yellow or reddish lateral margins on the mesoscutum

median and lateral lines on the scutellum



pale cuneus with a very large black apex

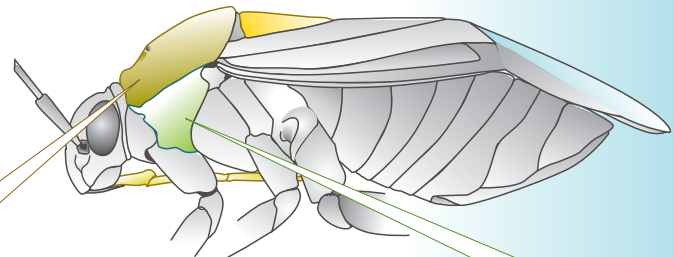
black spots, rays, and areas near the callus and base of the pronotum



frons  
clypeus  
lorum  
jugum



reddish or black markings on the clypeus, lorum, and jugum

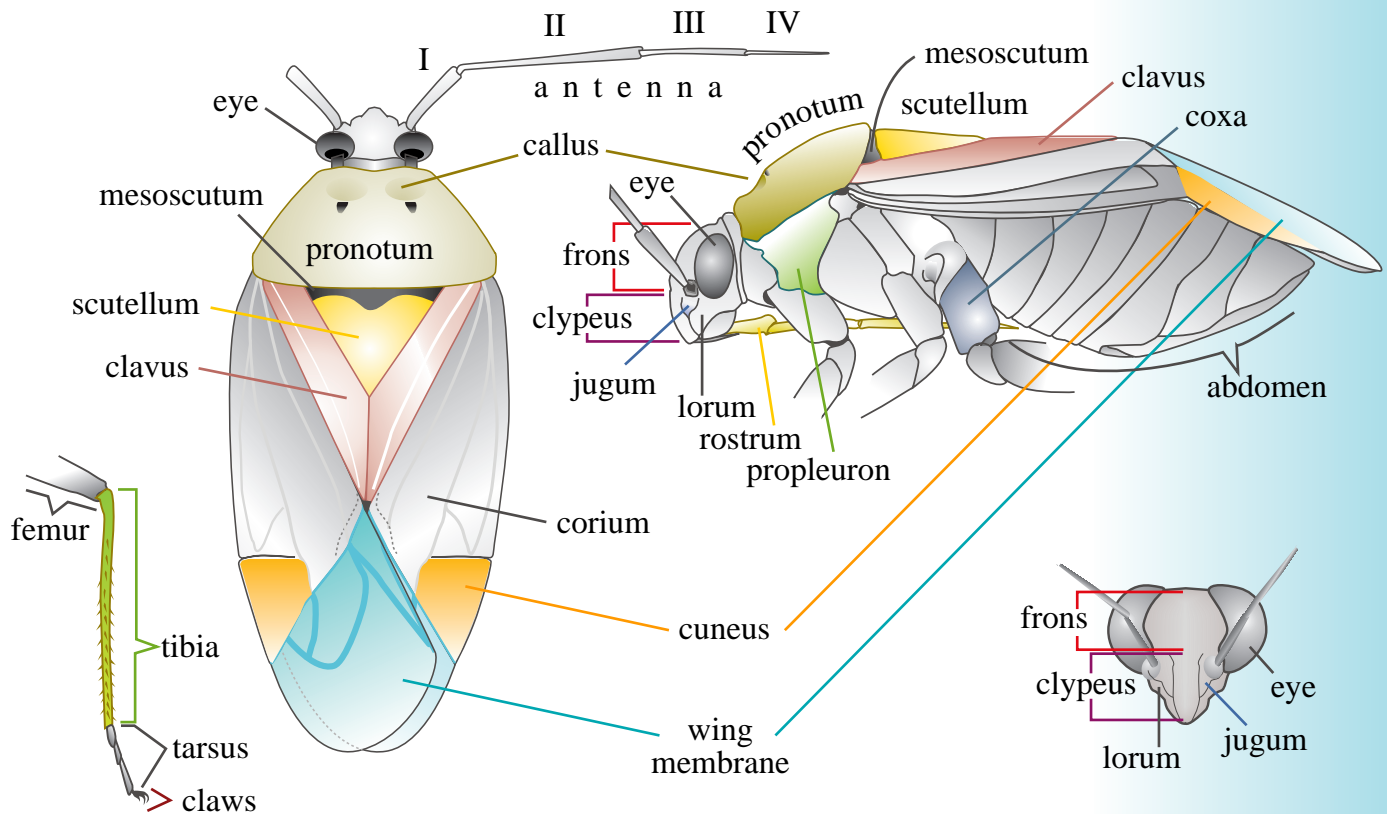


dark lines on the propleura



*Lygus lineolaris*  
(Palisot de Beauvois)

# Lygus Morphological Characteristics



This publication has been anonymously peer reviewed for technical accuracy by University of California scientists and other qualified professionals. The ANR Associate Editor for Pest Management managed this review process.

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