Recognising an infestation of Australian truffle beetle (Thalycrodes sp. Family Nitidulidae)

This guide is to assist truffle growers identify the presence of truffle beetle

Adults - honey brown with clubbed antennae and rows of hairs on its back; approx. 2-3mm long 1.5mm wide



Arrow points to truffle beetle adult with relative size compared to slaters and a ladybird



Truffle beetle adults in a truffle, scale in mm



Truffle beetle (below) with a similar but smaller beetle that is sometimes found in damaged or rotten truffle

Larvae - brown head; pointed both ends; tiny legs on the thorax; body segmented



White truffle beetle larva



Cream coloured truffle beetle larva



Truffle beetle larvae in an exposed truffle

Truffle beetle damage in washed truffles









Truffle beetle larvae and adults make holes approx. 1mm in diameter both internally and externally. They tunnel extensively within a truffle.

Look alike damage by other pests of truffles.



Slugs and slaters produce deep and uneven cavities



Black earwigs produce uneven holes



Weevil larvae produce approx. 5mm holes



Millipedes can produce uneven holes or browse the peridium



African black beetle adults produce approx. 10mm holes