



# Pest e-alerts



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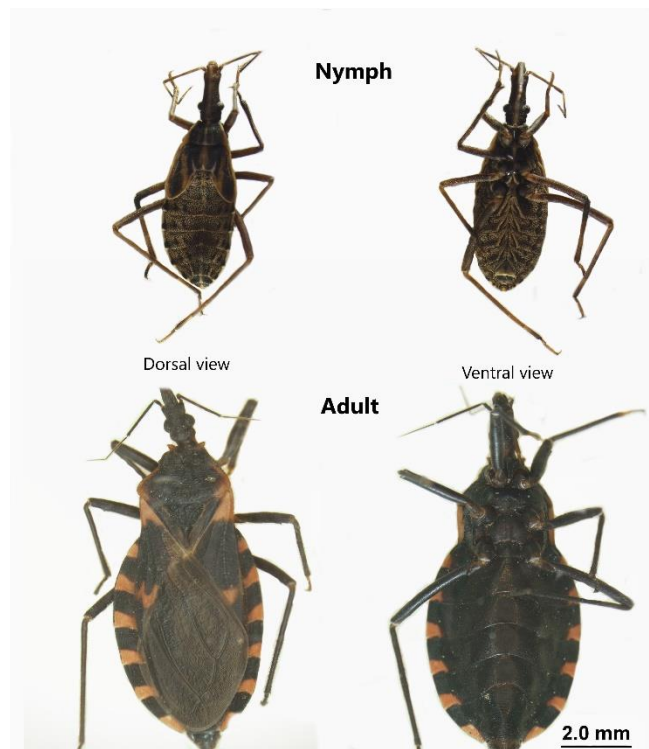
<http://entopl.okstate.edu/pddl/pddl>

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## Chagas Disease in Oklahoma

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Pictured above is an insect commonly called a **kissing bug**. Kissing bugs are hematophagous and are known to transmit the deadly parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*, which causes **Chagas disease** in humans and dogs. Chagas disease may remain undetectable for years, but eventual cardiac and gastrointestinal tissue damage in chronic infections can be fatal in some patients.

Oklahoma State University parasitologist and researcher **Dr. Kelly Allen** is working to learn more about the prevalence of the Chagas parasite in **kissing bug species in Oklahoma**. If you find a kissing bug and would like to have it tested for Chagas parasite DNA, please contact Dr. Allen at [www.kissingbugandtell.com](http://www.kissingbugandtell.com) for instructions on bug submittal, or if you would like to send a picture of what you think might be a kissing bug. A pre-paid postage label will be provided for mail-ins, and you will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire about where the bug was found to include with the package. Upon request, PCR to evaluate the animal species of the bug's recent blood meal is available.

Please **do not handle suspected kissing bugs with your bare hands**; wear gloves, use forceps, etc...to collect them, and do not intentionally crush them.

#### **Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory**

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