

# Spotted Cucumber Beetle (Southern Corn Rootworm)

## *Diabrotica undecimpunctata* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

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University of Guam Extension Agent Jesse Bamba brought a single specimen of a spotted cucumber beetle which he collected from lettuce growing at a farm in Mangilao, Guam on June 10, 2013. I identified it as *Diabrotica undecimpunctata*. The pinned specimen was sent to Dr. Richard Zack, Washington State University, who confirmed the species determination on January 3, 2014 by comparison to specimens in his collection.

### DESCRIPTION

The spotted cucumber beetle is a major agricultural pest insect of North America. In the adult form, it eats and damages leaves of many crops, including cucumbers, soybeans, cotton, beans, and many others. In the larval form, which is known as the southern corn rootworm, it tunnels through the roots of young plants, stunting or killing them.

Adult beetles are greenish-yellow with six large black spots on each elytron. They are about 0.5 cm long. The larvae are yellowish and wormlike. ([Wikipedia 2013](#)).

### DISTRIBUTION

Distribution on Guam is unknown. Prior to the discovery reported here, *D. undecimpunctatata* was confined to North and Central America ([CABI 2007](#)).



Fig. 1. The first spotted cucumber beetle collected on Guam.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Jesse Bamba as first detector of this invasive species, and to Rich Zack for confirming identification.

#### REFERENCES

- CABI. Crop protection compendium, 2007.
- Wikipedia. Spotted cucumber beetle — wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, 2013. URL [http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Spotted\\_cucumber\\_beetle&oldid=556803016](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Spotted_cucumber_beetle&oldid=556803016). [Online; accessed 8-January-2014].