

Indian Stick Insect (*Carausius morosus*)

Other common names: Laboratory stick insect, Common stick insect.

Distribution: Native to southern India. Established in many parts of the world. New infestation sites are often created by released/escaped specimens (or through discarded eggs) of this popular pet species. Indian stick insect was found in several urban areas along the coast of California.

Hosts and damage: Feeds on a variety of plants including privet, ivy, bramble, camellia, pyracantha, rose, hawthorn, geranium, oak, hibiscus and azalea. Adults and nymphs may chew irregular notches or consume entire sections of leaves reaching large veins. Populations can built up quickly reaching pest proportions.

Field ID: Females (about 70-90 mm) wingless, olive green to brown, with red markings at the bases of front legs. **Males** are smaller (about 48.5-60 mm), have light brown color, and are extremely rare. *C. morosus* reproduces mainly by parthenogenesis.

Eggs are oval, brown with yellow knobs. Females produce them continuously and drop on the ground beneath host plants.



Damage on ivy



Eggs