

JUNE ECO-BLITZ CHALLENGE

GIANT MESQUITE BUGS

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GIANT MESQUITE BUGS



This month we are learning all about the Giant Mesquite Bug (*Thasus gigis*). Here are some key facts:

- The largest of the true bugs and can be found feeding on the juices of Mesquite stems and pods in the early summer months.
- Juvenile Giant Mesquite Bugs (nymph stage) are very colorful featuring white dots with red and white leg bands.
- In the nymph state the Giant Mesquite Bug is able to spray a chemical that is deadly to both Tarantulas and Praying Mantis.

Sources:

Dimmitt, MA, PW Comus, and LM Brewer. 2015. A Natural History of the Sonoran Desert. 2nd Edition. Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Press and University of California Press. 294-295p

"Giant Mesquite Bug." www.insectidentification.org, www.insectidentification.org/insect-description.php?identification=Giant-Mesquite-Bug. Accessed 22 Feb. 2023.