

## Rain Beetle

**Order:** Coleoptera

**Family:** Scarabaeidae

**Genus/Species:** *Pleocoma species*

**Description:** The Rain Beetle is oval, slightly elongate, reddish orange and shiny above, chestnut below, with yellowish hairlike setae (bristles). The males are smaller than the females, and winged. The females are wingless.

**Habitat:** Forested Pacific coastal regions and Utah. There are over thirty species. Each has a very specific range, often confined to one canyon.

**Life Cycle:** The adults appear in October and November. They have a very long life cycle; the larvae feed on roots for 9 to 13 years. Wingless females emerge from pupal cases and dig tunnels to the surface to wait for males. Males fly at night during or just after rains.

**Economic Importance & Management:** Rain beetles can be injurious to orchard crops. They are difficult to control due to their unusual life history and deep burrowing habit. The rain beetle is not a significant pest in the home garden.

**References:** *Simon and Schuster's Guide to Insects*, Ross H. Arnett, Jr. & Dr. Richard L. Jaques, Jr., 1981

*Bugs of Washington and Oregon*, John Acorn & Ian Sheldon

*Garden Insects of North America*, Whitney Cranshaw

Photo, Ken Gray Collection OSU

