
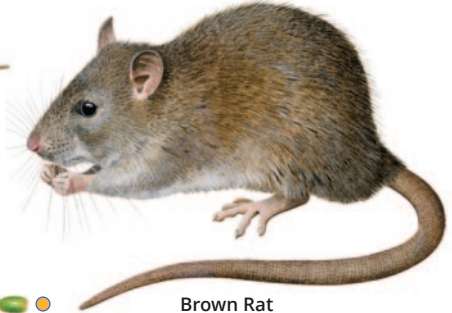



Mini guide to invasive alien species of Montserrat




 **Black Bean Bug**
Brachyplatys subaeneus



 **Brown Rat**
Rattus norvegicus




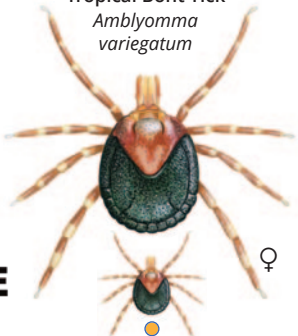
 **Croton Scale Insect**
Phalacroccoccus howertoni



 **Tropical Bont Tick**
Amblyomma variegatum



 **Fire Ant**
Solenopsis invicta



 = Actual size of insect
Varroa Mite
Varroa destructor

Illustrations ©
Chris Shields



Mini guide to **invasive alien species of Montserrat**

Black Bean Bug *Brachyplatys subaeneus* is an invasive pest, native to tropical and subtropical Asia. It is associated with a wide range of plants especially legumes including pigeon pea. Adults are oval, convex, about 5.5 mm long, and look like a black beetle with a yellow marking around the margin of the body. Usually seen in colonies attached to stems and shoots of plants.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* is a notorious invasive non-native species globally. Brown rats adversely impact native wildlife including seabirds but are also a nuisance to humans feeding on seeds and stored foods but also electrical wires causing disruption.

Croton Scale Insect *Phalacroccoccus howertoni* has a wide host range, feeding on mostly woody plants from 36 families. It is a serious pest of croton and fruit trees. It was first detected in Florida in 2008 and subsequently spread widely in the Caribbean. Adult females are 4 mm long, oval, greenish in colour with black markings.

Fire Ant *Solenopsis invicta* originate from South America. They have a painful sting and adversely impact wildlife and people. They spread quickly, forming large colonies, and can eat almost anything. Their sting lets them take over food sources and fight off competition. Fire Ants are now a major issue in the southern US, Caribbean, and parts of Australia and Asia.

Tropical Bont Tick *Amblyomma variegatum* originates from Africa and can transmit disease to humans and livestock. It carries a microorganism that causes heartwater disease, leading to skin problems, weight loss, and even death. Farmers should be on the lookout for this tick and take steps to safeguard their animals.

Varroa Mite *Varroa destructor* is considered the most dangerous pest of honey bees. High infestation causes death of bees and are capable of spreading disease to hives. Varroa mite can only reproduce in bee colonies, where they feed on both adults and larvae.

Biosecurity measures/information

1. Importers of plant or plant products should apply for an import permit from the Department of Agriculture.
2. Importation of plant products should be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate stating that the consignment is free from pest (live or dead insects and disease) and soil, also including treatments administered e.g. fungicide and pesticide.
3. Import permits for animal products or Animal importation license are issued at the Veterinary Division at the Department of Agriculture.



Please contact the
Department of Agriculture
for more information.

Telephone: 1664-491-2546

Email: agridept@gov.ms

