



BioMacrolophus

Macrolophus pygmaeus

A Total Predatory Bug



INSECTS ARE THE
FUTURE

BioMacrolophus



Macrolophus pygmaeus (BioMacrolophus) is a "total predator", efficient in controlling insect pests in vegetable crops in open fields and greenhouses. It feeds on eggs and larvae of the *Tuta absoluta* as well as eggs of whitefly, thrips, aphids, and spider mites. It is considered effective against *Tuta absoluta* and whitefly, especially on tomato plants. BioMacrolophus adults and nymphs are active hunters which feed on their prey by inserting their needle like mouthparts in the body of their prey and extract the liquids. The life-cycle of BioMacrolophus consists of 7 stages; egg, 5 nymphal stages, and an adult. It is part of the superorder of insects known as Exopterygota. The female lays her eggs within the plant tissue, the egg is small in size and are completely concealed. First observation for the presence of BioMacrolophus is during its second nymphal stage. The rate of development is dependent on temperature and availability and type of prey. At a temperature of 25°C BioMacrolophus develops from egg to adult in about 4 weeks. Under ideal conditions, the female BioMacrolophus can lay up to 200 eggs in her lifetime.



TARGET CROPS

Tomato, eggplant, pepper

NUMBER OF UNITS PER PACKAGE

BioMacrolophus are packed in 100 ml bottles with vermiculite medium containing 500 individuals; 90% of which are adults.

APPLICATION AND HANDLING

Before release the bottles should be gently rotated in a circular motion to ensure an even release. BioMacrolophus can be applied prophylactically if there are little or no signs of pest infestation by supplying alternative food sources, such as Mediterranean flour moths, or brine shrimp cysts. BioMacrolophus can be sprinkled directly on the plant leaves or hung from the leaves in application boxes. It is important to disperse BioMacrolophus as soon as possible upon delivery, preferably during the cool hours of the day. If for some reason they cannot be immediately released, they may be stored at a temperature of 8°C to 10°C, for up to 24 hours. Never leave closed containers in direct sunlight. The amount and frequency of BioMacrolophus to be released is determined by the type of crop, field conditions, and level of infestation and damage present in the crops.

GENERAL COMMENTS

With any use sort of pesticide or other chemical agents in the growing area, consult with your field service representative to be advised of its effect on the predatory insects.