



The adult sap beetle is approximately 1.0 to 15.0 mm in length and has a light to dark brown colored exoskeleton. Some sap beetles will also have spots on their exoskeleton. The body is oval to elongate in shape and contains three distinct regions: the head, thorax, and abdomen.

The head is the anterior end of the body and contains the sensory and mouth appendages. The antennae are paired sensory organs that are divided into 11 segments with the last 3 segments forming a club. The thorax has three pairs of legs with 5 tarsal on the end of each. The abdomen is divided into 5 to 8 segments on the ventral surface. All three regions of the body have many small hairs.

The life cycle of the sap beetle is about one month (30 days) and consists of an egg stage, several larval instar stages, and the adult stage. The eggs are small, white and elongate. The larva are elongate and have a light brown head and a white to pale yellow body.

Several species of sap beetles are common in Florida and feed on decaying or decomposing plant matter, such as strawberries. The sap beetle is attracted to any fruit that is damaged or cracked that exposes the juices. The sap beetle will eat sections or holes in the fruit. The sap beetle can also carry organisms from berry to berry that will cause the fruit to rot.

