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## BOLL ROT ASSOCIATED WITH REDBANDED STINK BUG, *PIEZODORUS GUILDINII*, FIELD INFESTATION E. G. Medrano USDA/ARS/SPA College Station, TX J. Morgan Texas A&M University College Station, TX

## **Abstract**

Pathogens that infect seed and lint of developing green bolls are transmitted by both the southern green (*Nezara viridula*) and brown (*Euschistus servus*) stink bugs via their piercing-sucking feeding mechanism. The primary difficulty of detecting infection early is that the outer boll walls are asymptomatic. Here, we report an inner boll rot disease that occurred following a redbanded stink bug (RBSB) infestation of a central Texas field. The RBSB is a significant pest of soybeans and known to attack cotton. From 100 bolls randomly collected, 93% with inner puncture wounds were also diseased. RBSB were then collected from fields in the same vicinity and caged with greenhouse grown bolls. Similarly, over 90% of the bolls with puncture wounds had disease symptoms. Collectively, these data indicated that the piercing-sucking RBSB is a potential inner boll disease agent vector, and warrants further study to identify its potency and the respective microorganisms transmitted.