



Inside Ag *September 5, 2007*

Bug of the Month Cyphocleonus Achates



Diffuse and spotted knapweeds are two noxious weeds that take over rangelands and grasslands, displace native vegetation and destroy the land for cattle grazing.

There are a number of effective biological controls for these weeds but the largest and most spectacular is that root boring weevil, *Cyphocleonus achates*.

The adults emerge from late July to September, feed on the foliage and lay eggs at the base of the plant. The larvae then bore into the root where they cause extensive damage and weaken the plant.

Adults are collected and redistributed by the Palisade Insectary in late summer and are very effective knapweed control agents, especially when used in conjunction with one or more of the other knapweed biocontrol agents. The size and gentle nature of this insect make it an ideal pet.