



## *Inside Ag* *November 7, 2007*

### **Bug of the Month** **Puncturevine weevils**



Puncturevine blooms with small yellow flowers late in the season, and produces spiny green fruits that dry, and then break into 5 burs with two stout sharp spines each. Puncturevine is also known as goat head since the burs resemble a goat's head with the spines resembling horns. The burs can injure livestock and are a nuisance to people, sometimes puncturing bicycle tires.



There are two weevil species, both in the genus *Microlarinus*, which feed on puncturevine. One weevil species feeds on the seeds and the other bores into the stems. These insects are available early to mid fall and will be sure to make your bicycle tires happy!