

# Soldier Beetle

*Chauliognathus pennsylvanicus*

**Family:** Cantharidae

**Size:** 3/8" to 1/2" (9-12 mm)

**Range:** Indiana south to Texas  
and east to Ontario to Florida



Soldier beetles, or Pennsylvania leatherwings as they are sometimes referred to, like to occupy goldenrod (*Solidago*) and other similar plants in gardens, fields, and woodland edges. Often more noticeable in late summer and early fall, this insect is considered beneficial. While they are mostly after pollen, they will snack on aphids and other pests that get in their way. Although their body structure does resemble the famed “lightning bug”, they do not possess the light-producing bioluminescence enzyme.

**More Information:** [http://go.ncsu.edu/soldier\\_beetle](http://go.ncsu.edu/soldier_beetle)

## Reference:

Evans, Arthur V., (2008). *National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of North America*. Andrew Stewart Publishing ed. Pg. 189

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