

***4. Do these things to avoid being bitten while you sleep.***

- move beds at least a foot away from walls and other objects
- check for bugs in and around beds before retiring
- enclose beds in mosquito netting and tuck it in all around the mattress
- wrap bed legs with adhesive tape sticky side out

***5. Ask your local health department farm and home advisor, or agricultural commissioner for advice on the use of pesticides.***

- use dusts in areas such as the attic and beneath the home
- use sprays where the bugs hide in the house; around baseboards, in closets, around fireplace masonry, and similar places.

***BE CAREFUL with insecticides  
READ AND HEED THE LABEL***

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# Conenose Bugs in California



What They Are And  
What You Can Do  
About Them

Conenoses are blood-feeding insects common in the foothills and deserts of California. They are of medical importance because they sometimes bite humans. The bite from California species is painless and usually results in a localized reaction. In a person who has been sensitized by previous bites the injected saliva may cause a severe reaction requiring medical attention. Most of the bites occur in the home, often when the person is asleep, and most often during the late spring and summer months. If the bite produces a severe reaction, see your doctor. He may prescribe medicines to reduce the reaction or recommend desensitization antigens.

The most common conenose is the Western Bloodsucking Conenose, *Triatoma protracta*. This conenose is a dark brown flattened insect 3/4-inch in length with an elongated head. Other conenoses in California (*T. rubida uhleri* and *Paratriatome hirsuta*) are similar but lighter in color.

The eggs of conenoses are laid in nests of animals, such as wood rats. Immature insects require a blood meal each of the five times they molt. The

young resemble their parents except that they are smaller and have no wings. Certain non blood-feeding bugs similar in size and shape to conenoses may inflict painful bites. One of the most common, the Western Spotted Corsair (*Rasahus thoracicus*) is orange and black, with an orange spot on each wing.



Western Spotted Corsair

*Triatoma* and other closely related bugs carry the organisms causing Chagas' diseases that occur throughout much of Central and South America. While only one case of this disease is known to been contracted in California, the causative organism (*Trypanosoma cruzi*) has been widely found in *Triatoma* and in certain rodents, including wood rats.

Conenoses are sometimes called Kissing bogs, steel pin bugs, China bedbugs, cross bugs, diamondback bugs, or Wallapi tigers.

**Widespread control of conenoses is very difficult, but there are some things you can do to lessen the chance of being bitten:**

***1. Destroy sources of bugs and their hosts around your house***

- eliminate wood rat houses near your house
- eliminate animal harborage under your home and in the attic
- stack logs, lumber, and firewood in neat piles at least six inches off the ground

***2. Make your home insect- and rodent-proof.***

- caulk all cracks and openings through which bugs can enter
- make sure window screens fit tightly
- weather-strip outside doors
- screen chimneys and vents

***3. Avoid accidentally carrying the bugs into your house on* pets, laundry, firewood, and outdoor furniture**