

Eucalyptus leaf beetle

(*Chrysophtharta* sp.)

Rating: **Q**

- ❑ Recently (August 2003) found on landscape trees in Orange Co.; probably native to Australia.
- ❑ Host: Blue gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*).
- ❑ Field ID: Adults about 5-7 mm long, **gray** to **reddish brown**, hemispherical and flattened underneath. Legs with tarsomeres bilobed and covered ventrally with a thick set of bristles. Larvae **greenish-gray**, caterpillar-like, with black head and three small pairs of legs on thorax, feeding on the young waxy growth of host plant. Elliptical, orange eggs are laid on rows on the underside of the leaves. Both adults and larvae are covered with a whitish pruinescence that helps camouflage them with the leaves on which they feed. Similar to Australian tortoise beetle, from which it can be distinguished by lighter color (ATB is dark brown).



Damage on young growth of *E. globulus*