



## FYN Garden Q & A Series

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Yards & Neighborhoods



### FYN TOPIC: Two-Striped Walking stick (*Anisomorpha buprestoides*).

**Question:** I walk my dog at night and have seen a strange insect that looks like sticks on my driveway. Could they be coming from my yard and cause any harm to my dog?  
Karen from Pine Island

**Answer:** Your driveway insect is probably a particular type of walking stick: brownish-black in color and relatively small (1 to 2½ inches) in length. If it has two, long yellowish stripes running down its back, it's the Two-Striped Walking Stick (*Anisomorpha buprestoides*). The smaller, pint-sized male can often be seen sitting on the back of the larger female. "If you see a live "dead" stick in your Florida yard, observe it, but don't "bug" it." according to Dan Culvert, Okeechobee County Extension Agent. "With nicknames like the 'spitting devil', 'devil's riding horse' and 'musk mare', avoid any close contact between this insect, you and dog. Avoid being closer than a few feet away. Because when disturbed, this Walking Stick sprays a foul smelling fluid which is especially painful if it gets in your or the dog's eyes. This insect feeds on oak, rosemary, roses, crape myrtle and ligustrum (privet).

#### Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>  
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>  
<http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>



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Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 239-533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by emailing [Extgardener@leegov.com](mailto:Extgardener@leegov.com). Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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