

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Katja Schulz, Flickr

Common Name: Spider Beetle

Scientific Name: Various species

Order and Family: Coleoptera, Ptinidae

Size and Appearance:

| | Length (mm) | Appearance |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---|
| Egg | | |
| Larva/Nymph | 3 - 5 mm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• White and C shaped.• Three pairs of legs ending in a single claw.• Legs 3 - 5 segments. |
| Adult | 1 - 5 mm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usually with a large globular abdomen.• Long and thin legs and antennae.• Color variable depending on species. Brownish-yellow red, black, or bi-color. |
| Pupa (if applicable) | 4 mm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enclosed in silken cocoons sometimes with substrate incorporated or embedded in food source. |

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host/s: Generally, spider beetles are scavengers and secondary pests, feeding on both animal and plant sources. Examples of food sources include wool, hair, feathers, animal carcasses, rodent droppings, drugs, roots, grain, seeds, dried fruits, meats, mushrooms, and books. Spider beetles are occasional stored product pests and are usually an indicator of poor sanitation.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Feeding by large infestations can leave a matted surface from their mucous feeding shelters and pupal cocoons. Chewing can result in oval holes 1 - 2 mm in diameter in packaging. The presence of larvae, cocoons, dead bodies, and frass in food can also diminish the quality of the food. Larvae can damage wooden structures when burrowing to pupate.

References:

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