

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Michael C. Thomas, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Red-legged ham beetle

Scientific Name: *Necrobia rufipes*

Order and Family: Coleoptera, Cleridae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1 mm	Round and tapered with a translucent coloring
Larva/Nymph	10 mm	Creamy gray with grayish-violet markings.
Adult	3.5-7 mm	Shiny, metallic blue-green or black with reddish legs
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host/s: Adults and larvae feed on dried coconut, dried fish, and cured meats and cheeses. They can also be found feeding at corpses but usually on other insects.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): In forensic cases, red-legged ham beetles usually show up during the dry stage of decomposition. The red-legged ham beetle infests dry goods such as cured meats, cheeses and even pet food. They are known to damage museum specimens and have even been found in excavated mummies.

References:

McLeod, R. (2005). Species *Necrobia rufipes*. Bugguide.net.
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Simmons, P., & Ellington, G. W. (1925). *The ham beetle, Necrobia rufipes DE GEER*: Govern. Print. Office.