

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Red-shouldered ham beetle

Scientific Name: *Necrobia ruficollis*

Order and Family: Coleoptera, Cleridae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph	9-13 mm	Pale white to purple in color
Adult	4-6.5 mm	Metallic blue on elytra with reddish-brown thorax and legs
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host/s: These beetles can be found on the skin and bones of dead animals. Usually shows up on cadavers in the dry decomposition stage.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):

Adults and larvae show up in the late stages of decomposition and feed on dry tissue, skin and other insect larvae. *N. ruficollis* are known to cause damage to museum specimens and dry food goods.

References:

Eaton, E. (2008). *Species Necrobia ruficollis*-red shouldered ham beetle. Bugguide.net
<https://bugguide.net/node/view/245809>

Leavengood, J. M. (2008). *The checkered beetles (Coleoptera: Cleridae) of Florida* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Florida).