

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Gilles San Martin on Flickr Dr. Dennis D. Juranek, USDCDCP

Common Name: Head louse

Scientific Name: *Pediculus humanus capitis*

Order and Family: Phthiraptera: (Anoplura) Pediculidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.8 mm	Oblong with end cap, glued to a hair. Tan if occupied, transparent if empty.
Larva/Nymph	1 mm -2.5 mm	Transparent, tan or reddish if full of blood
Adult	2.5-3 mm	Flattened, wingless, greyish if empty, reddish if full of blood, tan if meal digested.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host/s: Humans

Description of Medical Importance (Nymphs and adults): Ectoparasites, live in head hair and drink blood from scalp. Head lice are a nuisance pest; they are not disease vectors.

References:

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