

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Black Carpet Beetle

Scientific Name: *Attagenus unicolor* (Brahm)

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Dermestidae

Size and Appearance: Adult black carpet beetles range in size from 2.8-5 mm long and despite moniker, they can range in color from brown to reddish-brown to black. Their body is oval-shaped, with their head concealed from view by the pronotum, and they feature 3-segmented club antennae. Larvae are up to 7-8 mm in length and have dark hairs covering body.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.1 mm in length	Eggs are round, pearly-white and are usually deposited in lint within cracks, under baseboards, or air ducts.
Larva/Nymph	7-8 mm in length depending on instar	C-shaped, white, well developed legs. 4-6 instars.
Adult	2.8-5 mm long	Light colored with hairs covering entire body. Molt 5-11 times and up to 20.
Pupa (if applicable)	5-9 mm long	Pupates in last larval skin within carpeting or similar material.

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

Host food product/s: *Attagenus unicolor* feeds on most animal and plant products including wool, leather, silk, feathers, dead insects, plant material, nuts, seeds, meals, and processed foods.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Black carpet beetle larval feeding results in damage to textiles as well as stored food items. When consuming fabrics, they leave irregular holes on furs, curtains, and leather materials. They can leave stored food products distasteful in times of high infestation.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Fabric and Paper Pests- Black Carpet Beetle. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (5.1.2). National Pest Management Association International.

Jacobs, S. (January 2013). Black Carpet Beetle. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Entomology. Retrieved July 24th, 2016 from <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/black-carpet-beetle>