

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Body Louse

Scientific Name: *Pediculus humanus humanus*

Order and Family: Anoplura: Pediculidae

Size and Appearance: Adults are roughly 2.8-4.2 mm in length with flattened white to gray colored bodies. The body shape is elongate, with the head only appearing slightly more narrow than the thorax. Like head lice, body lice have claws on the tibia, but uses them for grasping clothes instead of hair.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.09 mm in length by 0.3 mm in width	Pearly white in color with oval shape. Female lays 200 eggs on clothing fibers where they come in contact with skin.
Larva/Nymph	< 1 mm- 4.2 mm depending on instar	3 instar stages that last about 3 weeks. Resemble adults.
Adult	2.8-4.2 mm	Flattened, elongate bodies with head appearing slightly more narrow than the thorax. Three pairs of legs designed for clasping clothing fibers.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host /stored food products: *Pediculous humanus humanus* lives exclusively on the body of humans and performs entire lifecycle there.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Body lice are considered medically important because they serve as vectors for typhus, relapsing fever, and trench fever. Commonly transmitted through sharing of

clothing and bedding. Like head lice, eggs are the most visible stage of the pest and can be found in areas where clothing makes skin contact, particularly seams of underwear, and elastic portion of socks or pants.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Blood Feeders- Human Lice. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (3.11.1). National Pest Management Association International.

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Weems, H.V. (1999). Body Louse and Head Louse; Pediculidae sp. University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology. Retrieved November 12th, 2016 from http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/human_lice.htm