

Pest Profile



Photo credit: By Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Common Name: Cigarette Beetle

Scientific Name: *Lasioderma serricorne* (Fabricius)

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Anobiidae

Size and Appearance: Adults are fairly small in size, at about 2- 3 mm in length. Cigarette beetles are identified by their oval shape, reddish-brown coloration, and pronotum shielding their head from view. Their antennae are saw-like rather than clubbed and they lack pits on their thorax, which are characteristics used to distinguish them from the Drugstore beetle. Larvae are C-shaped, 2-3 mm long, white with darkened head region, and include fully formed legs.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.1 mm in length	Oval, white, and dull in appearance. Deposited in groups of 30 on or around food material.
Larva/Nymph	2-3 mm in length depending on instar	C-shaped, white, well developed legs. 4-6 instars.
Adult	2-3 mm long	Red/Brown in color, oval-shaped, saw-like antennae, smooth thorax.
Pupa (if applicable)	3 mm long	Silken with food materials strewn in. Also deposited within food larvae have fed on.

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

Host food product/s: *Lasioderma serricorne* feeds on any household stored food or spice item. It seems to have a strong preference towards spices such as paprika, ginger, pepper, and herbs. Additionally, it is often found on cocoa beans, coffee, cottonseed, dates, dried fruits and vegetables, nuts, and museum specimens.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Cigarette beetle larval feeding results in damage to many stored food products worldwide. Traces of beetles, pupae, cocoons, frass, and insect parts makes items unsellable.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Stored Product Pests- Cigarette Beetle. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (9.1.2). National Pest Management Association International.

Cabrera, J., Buss, L.J. (2001). Cigarette Beetle. University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology. Retrieved July 20th, 2016 from http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/urban/stored/cigarette_beetle.htm