

Pest Profile



Photo credit By Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Common Name: Ground Beetles

Scientific Name: *various*

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Carabidae

Size and Appearance: Adult members of the *Carabidae* family range in length from 12-35 mm and generally have elongate, flattened bodies with a shiny, red to black coloration. Legs are slender and long, and the antennae are located between the eyes and base of their mouthparts. Larvae can vary from being very white to almost black in color. They also feature biting mandibles, thoracic legs, and a 10-segmented abdomen.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1-2 mm in length	Some species lay eggs in cells and they tend to be oval shaped and a range of colors.
Larva/Nymph	1-40 mm in length depending on instar	Biting mandibles, thoracic legs, 10-segmented abdomen, white to black in color. 3 instars.
Adult	12-35 mm long	Elongate, flattened body, shiny, red to black in color, slender legs, antennae placed between eyes and mandibles.
Pupa (if applicable)	12-40 mm long	Pupates underneath the ground in its final larval skin. Brown in color.

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

Host /s: *Carabidae* feed on a variety of insects, including larvae of some pest species. They also are known to feed on organic, decaying matter.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Considered a nuisance pest, adult beetles enter homes through doorways, windows, etc., often attracted to lights. They give off an unpleasant odor when stepped on or handled and due to their size can be disturbing for some.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Occasional Invaders- Ground Beetles. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (7.4.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Carvalho, C., Gareau, T.P, Barbercheck, M. (2015). Ground and Tiger Beetles. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Entomology. Retrieved July 24th, 2016 from <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/ground-beetles>