

Pest Profile



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

Common Name: Larder Beetle

Scientific Name: *Dermestes lardarius* Linnaeus

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Dermestidae

Size and Appearance: Adult larder beetles range in size from 7-9 mm long and feature dark brown elytra that has distinctive yellow bands with 6-8 black dots. Fine yellow hairs also cover the body. Larvae are between 10-15 mm in size, dark brown, and have small brownish hairs covering the body.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.1 mm in length	Eggs are laid on food or in area where food is stored. Small, oval-shaped, and yellowish-white. 102-800 laid in lifetime of female.
Larva/Nymph	10-15 mm in length depending on instar	Dark brown, segmented in appearance, small brownish hair covering body. 5-6 molts.
Adult	7-9 mm long	Dark brown/black with yellow bands on elytra. 6-8 black spots common. Clubbed antennae.
Pupa (if applicable)	5-10 mm long	Pupates in last larval skin within food source.

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

Host food product/s: *Dermestes lardarius* feeds on cured meats, dog food, hides, feathers, furs, dead insects, and other stored food products.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Larder beetle larval feeding results in small holes in skins and hides, and frass and molt skins left in stored goods. They are a large problem in commercial poultry houses, which they are attracted to due to feathers. They drill into wood to pupate on occasion which can cause structural issues over time.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Stored Product Pests- Larder Beetle. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (9.7.2). National Pest Management Association International.

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