

## Pest Profile



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**Common Name:** Rocky Mountain Wood Tick

**Scientific Name:** *Dermacentor andersoni*

**Order and Family:** Acari: Ixodidae

**Size and Appearance:** Adults are dark in color and fair size at about 3.2 mm in length. The abdomen is dark brown and they are noted in having lighter coloration on the legs and head. Nymphs have 6 legs during first instar and lighter body coloration.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	0.05 mm in length	Light brown, 3,000 eggs can be laid per clutch.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Instar- 0.75 mm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Instar- 1 mm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Instar- 2-3 mm	1 <sup>st</sup> Instar- 6 legs, small, light brown 2 <sup>nd</sup> Instar- light brown 3 <sup>rd</sup> Instar (and subsequent) 8 legs, roundish body, brown
<b>Adult</b>	Unengorged females and males- 3.2 mm long Engorged Females- up to 12 mm	Dark, flattened body with lighter coloration on head and legs.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

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

**Host /stored food products:** *Dermacentor andersoni* need 3 distinct hosts in order to reproduce. Nymphs prefer rodents whereas adults will feed on large mammals including sheep, deer, and humans.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Considered to be a pest of medical importance due to being the primary vector of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. This disease is noted by its key symptom of developing a full body rash within 2-5 days post fever.

**References:**

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

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