



# What's Eating Your Collection?

---

## Dermestes larva

Beetle larva

Size: 1mm when first hatched up to 15mm when fully grown.

Shape: tapered.

Colour: black/dark brown with pale cross bands

Antennae: not visible

Distinguishing features: bands of spiky black hairs.  
Two curved "horns" called urogomphi, at the back end.

Hide beetle larvae *D. lardarius* and *D. peruvianus* are very difficult to distinguish from one another as the key feature is the shape of the urogomphi.

Larvae are pests of: dried animal protein such as dead rodents and birds. Larvae of *D. peruvianus* will also eat human food debris. When fully grown, they may tunnel into wood to pupate.

*D. lardarius* often found in chimney flues of historic houses. *D. peruvianus* is often found in mess rooms/catering areas.



## Related Objects



Dermestes peruvianus  
larva and cast skins



Hide beetle *Dermestes haemorrhoidalis*



Hide or leather beetle  
*Dermestes maculatus*



Larder beetle  
*Dermestes lardarius*



Peruvian Hide beetle  
*Dermestes peruvianus*