



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