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A Product of the Integrated Pest Management Working Group

Museum beetle

Anthrenus museorum



GENERAL INFORMATION

A member of the Dermestid group of beetles, the museum beetle, *A. museorum*, is widely distributed throughout North America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, and is newly recorded in the Canadian maritime provinces. In some regions, such as the UK, it lives primarily outdoors and is not a common indoor pest. In the United States, infestations have been recorded in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin.

SIGNS OF INFESTATION

Grazing damage, frass, and cast larval skins of the museum beetle provide the only signs of infestation. These signs will be found on and around proteinaceous food sources (see below).

FOOD SOURCES

Outdoors *A. museorum* larvae can be found in the egg sacs of spiders, and feed on eggs and spiders that fail to hatch. Indoors, *A. museorum* feeds on furs, woolens, carpets, silk, feathers, and skins. Larvae have also been recorded to feed on grain, museum specimens, and dead cluster flies (*Pollenia rudis*) in attics.

LIFE CYCLE

Eggs are laid in late summer, larvae overwinter, and pupation occurs in spring. Adults are active on flowers in sunlight, but become negatively phototactic and seek sheltered sites to lay eggs. Usually one generation occurs per year.

DIAGNOSTIC MORPHOLOGY

Adults:

- Adults are about 3mm long
- They have yellow and brown coloration on their scaled wing covers
- They resemble varied carpet beetles (*A. verbasci*) but are differentiated by antennae morphology
- *A. museorum* antennae are eight-segmented with a two-segmented club, while *A. verbasci* antennae are eleven-segmented with a three-segmented club

Immature Stage:

- Larvae are about 3mm long
- They are covered with dark tufts of hair
- They have alternating transverse light and dark brown stripes



CONTROL & TREATMENT

Standard control and treatment methods for museum pests will generally control this beetle, with identification and isolation of the infestation being the most critical post-infestation step. Low temperature treatments have proven effective. If pheromone traps are unavailable, food attractant traps are useful for both identifying, monitoring, and to some extent controlling dermestid populations.

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Fact Sheet: Museum beetle

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<http://www.zin.ru/ANIMALIA/COLEOPTERA/eng/antmuskm.htm>

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