

## Bed Bug

**Typical Location When Observed:** In cracks and crevices near sleeping areas.

**Importance/Damage:** A very important biting insect that is adapted to human dwellings. Bed bugs are increasingly abundant and may occur where ever they have been transported by humans.

**Distinguishing Features:** Unfed bed bugs have an oval body form and are flat; when fed they become distended and more elongate. General coloration ranges from light to dark brown. Adults are about 5 mm; immature stages can be considerably smaller.

**Look-Alikes:** Four other species of cimicid bugs can be found in Colorado including the bat bug and the swallow bug. These species look very similar to the bed bug but have important differences in life history and habits. They are discussed in the fact sheet referenced below.

**Resources:** This insect is covered in more detail in Extension Fact Sheet 5.674, *Bat Bugs, Bed Bugs and Relatives*.



Bed bug, unfed



Bed bug adult (center) and nymphs. Photo courtesy Gary Alpert and IPM Images.

**Scientific Name:** *Cimex lectularius*

**Order:** Hemiptera (Bugs, Aphids, Scale Insects, Cicadas, etc.)

**Family:** Cimicidae

Actual Length  
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