

## “Carpet Beetles” - *Anthrenus* spp.

**Typical Location When Observed:** In homes, with adults most commonly seen in late spring. Outdoors common on certain flowers (e.g., *Spirea*).

**Importance/Damage:** Common in homes. A general scavenger that feeds on dead insects, household lint, hair and other animal debris. Occasionally damages wool or feathers products.

**Distinguishing Features:** Adults are small beetles, typically about 2-3 mm long and have a generally round body form. Most have colorful body patterning produced by scales of yellow, browns and white. The larvae are very spiny with a blunt body that is slightly narrower at the head end than at the posterior.



Adult and larvae of the furniture carpet beetle. Photograph courtesy of Clemson University and IPM Images.

**Resources:** Management of the household species of dermestid (carpet) beetles are discussed in Extension Fact Sheet 5.549, *Carpet Beetles*.

**Scientific Names:** *Anthrenus verbasci* (**varied carpet beetle**), *Anthrenus flavipes* (**furniture carpet beetle**), and *Anthrenus scrophulariae* (**common carpet beetle**).

**Order:** Coleoptera (Beetles)

**Family:** Dermestidae (Hide and Carpet Beetles)

Actual Length  
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