

## Black Carpet Beetle

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

**Importance/Damage:** Sometimes common indoors. Occasionally may damage woolens, feathers, or other materials of animal origin.

**Distinguishing Features:** Adults are golden tan to dark brown, oval-form, and about 3-5 mm in length. The larvae are quite active but avoid light and will curl up and play dead when disturbed.

**Look-Alikes:** Dermestid beetles in the genus *Trogoderma* are generally similar in appearance, but the uniform dark color of the black carpet beetle distinguishes it. *Trogoderma* spp. have some patterning on the wing cover and the larvae feed on grain products.

**General Life History and Habits:** Outdoors they feed on various types of animal-produced debris and are frequently associated with animal nests. Indoors they may be feeding on lint of dead skin flakes, hair, dead insects and similar materials.

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

**Scientific Name:** *Attagenus unicolor unicolor*

**Order:** Coleoptera (Beetles)

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



Black carpet beetle adult and larva. Photograph courtesy of Clemson University and IPM Images.

Actual Length  
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