



# Varied Carpet Beetle

*Anthrenus verbasci*

## Description

**Adults:** 2-3 mm (0.08-0.12 inches) long, black to grey body with a varied pattern of white, yellow and brown elongated scales attached. The last three antennal segments are slightly enlarged and form club shape.

**Eggs:** Oval, ivory in color and 0.5 mm (0.02 inches) long.

**Larvae:** Yellowish brown with black and brown hairs. Up to 5 mm (0.2 inch) long, hairy, with three distinct pairs of hairy tufts at the tail end; three pair of thoracic legs.

**Pupae:** Pupal cases brownish with dark beetle inside the pupal chamber.

## Life Cycle

The female beetle will lay eggs in materials made with hair, feather or insect parts. It is a scavenger for animal proteins. Larvae will feed off the food or fibre substance for about 7-10 months depending on environment. The life cycle on average will be 11 months. Adults live for 30-45 days. One generation occurs per year depending on storage conditions. Adults actively fly when temperature is above 21°C (70°F).

## Damage and Detection

Only larvae cause damage to plant, animal products, and textiles. The presence of cast skins is easily seen. Holes and frayed fibres in textiles also may be present. Adults are excellent fliers and are attracted to lights. The use of pheromone traps and inspections can determine the location and degree of infestation. These beetles are commonly found in nests of bees, wasps, and birds, but can also attack, horn, wool, hair, silk, dead insects and is occasionally found in meal, spices, and biscuits. It is a common household pest.

## Corresponding Products from Insects Limited

- [Flat Traps and Bullet Lures \(IL-110\)](#)
- [All Beetle Trap with Bullet Lures and Dermestid Attractant \(IL-2110\)](#)
- [Dermestid Attractant Trap and Attractant \(IL-3050\)](#)

## QUICK SCAN

	SIZE	/	LENGTH
Adult	0.08-0.12 inch		(2-3 mm)
Eggs	0.02 inches		(0.5 mm)

COLOR RANGE	
Adult	Black to grey body
Larvae	Yellowish brown

LIFE CYCLE	
Adults	Live for 30-45 days
Eggs	Hatch 5-12 days
Larvae	Feed for 7-10 months

FEEDING HABITS	
Larvae cause damage to plant, animal products, and textiles	

INFESTATION SIGNS	
Presence of cast skins is easily seen. Holes and frayed fibres in textiles also may be present.	



# Varied Carpet Beetle Monitoring Guidelines

## Lure

Varied Carpet Beetle BULLET LURE. Contains sex pheromone to attract male beetles.

AA CARPET BEETLE LURE. Contains sex pheromone to attract male beetles for both Varied Carpet Beetles and Black Carpet Beetles.

DERMESTID LARVAL ATTRACTANT contains a food attractant effectively attractive to both male and female Black Carpet Beetles as well as the larval stage of the same insect. Dermestid Larval Attractant can be stored in any temperature and has an effective attractiveness if the pellet maintains its structure and has not gotten wet.

## Lure Storage

Keep unopened lures in cool storage less than 16°C (60°F) or place in freezer for extended storage. Lures can remain frozen for up to 24 months or at room temperature for 12 months to retain their full effectiveness for use afterwards.

It is a best practice to keep the Dermestid Larval Attractant in cool storage 16°C (60°F) or in a freezer for extended storage to protect from moisture and condensation. However, this practice is not required.

## Trap Designs Used with Lure

FLAT TRAPS are low profile flat rectangular sticky traps that can be placed on level surfaces.

The ALL BEETLE TRAP is a low profile, 3 piece trap with a clear lid that should be placed on level surfaces.

The traps are the size of a business card with circular, 0.5 inches (12 mm) cartridge attached to contain the Dermestid Larval Attractant. These devices are not designed to capture and hold the larvae with sticky glues and should be used to discover if a target pest is feeding on the attractant.

## Trap Placement Techniques

Pheromone traps can be placed out year-round but are especially recommend during warmer months when temperatures exceed 12.5°C (55°F). Floor pheromone traps like the All Beetle Trap and Flat Trap are more effective at capturing varied carpet beetles compared to hanging pheromone traps, however, hanging pheromone traps tend to stay clean longer and may allow for easier inspection. Place hanging pheromone traps 1.5 m (5 feet) above ground or at eye level to allow for easy inspection when monitoring traps. In areas such as a closet or home, place one or two pheromone traps per room. In commercial areas such as warehouses or museums, place pheromone traps 7.5–15 m (25–50 feet) apart to determine the presence or absence of varied carpet beetle. Increase pheromone trap density to 4.5–7.5 m (15–25 feet) apart to help locate source of varied carpet beetle. Keep pheromone traps 7.5 m (25 feet) away from exterior doors. Varied carpet beetle pheromone traps are best utilized in areas that store items that contain natural fibers and stored foods such as wool, hair, feathers, furs, upholstered furniture (containing natural wools and leathers), food, grains, seeds, spices, nuts, dried fruit, animal feed, or pet food.

## Trap and Lure Maintenance

Replace traps when glue is filled with insects or becomes dusty. Replace pheromone lures every 90 days. Replace all pheromone lures in a location at the same time. Do not cut the cap off the bullet lure. Do not stagger lure replacement over several weeks. Record date and number of catches to identify trending information.

## Fun Facts

- Similar species include many other Anthrenus, Anthrenocerus, Attagenus and Trogoderma species.
- Other common names include small cabinet beetle, museum beetle, banded beetle, and painted carpet beetle.
- Varied carpet beetle larvae have hairs on their body called setae that can cause gastrointestinal irritation in infants, children, and at-risk individuals. They may also cause an allergic reaction.
- Adult varied carpet beetles feed on pollen and nectar of flowering plants.
- Varied carpet beetles initiate flight at temperatures above 22.5°C (73°F).