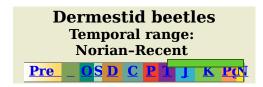
# **Dermestidae**



Varied carpet beetle (*Anthrenus verbasci*)

#### Scientific classification Edit this classification

Domain: <u>Eukaryota</u>
Kingdom: <u>Animalia</u>
Phylum: <u>Arthropoda</u>

Class: Insecta
Order: Coleoptera
Suborder: Polyphaga

Infraorder: Bostrichiformia
Superfamily: Bostrichoidea

Family: Dermestidae
Latreille, 1804

#### **Subfamilies**

- Attageninae
- Dermestinae
- Megatominae
- Orphilinae
- Thorictinae
- Trinodinae

Dermestid beetles being used to clean a <u>human</u> skull at Skulls Unlimited International, <u>Oklahoma City</u>, <u>Oklahoma</u>

**Dermestidae** are a family of <u>Coleoptera</u>. They are also known as **skin beetles**, larder beetles, hide beetles, leather beetles, carpet beetles, and khapra beetles. There are 500 to 700 <u>species</u> of dermestids. They can be up to 1–12 mm in length. Adults have round <u>oval</u>-shaped bodies covered in scales or <u>setae</u>. [1]

Most dermestids are <u>scavengers</u> that feed on dry animal or plant material. This includes skin or <u>pollen</u>, animal hair, feathers, dead <u>insects</u>, and natural <u>fibers</u>. Dermestids can be found living in dead animals and feeding on them. Others can be found living in mammal, bird, bee, or <u>wasp nests</u>. <u>Thaumaglossa</u> only lives in the egg cases of <u>mantids</u>. Many <u>Trogoderma</u> species are <u>pests</u> that eat <u>grain</u>.

The beetles found living in dead animals are studied in criminal investigations (<u>forensic entomology</u>). Many species are pests which can damage natural fibers in homes and businesses. Dermestids are sometimes used by <u>natural history museums</u> to clean animal <u>skeletons</u>.

### References

[change | change source]

- 1. ↑ Byrd, Jason. Castner, James 2001. Forensic Entomology: The Utility of Arthropods in Legal Investigations
- 2. \(\begin{aligned}
  \text{ Kingsolver, John M. 2002. } \(Dermestidae\). In Ross H. Arnett, Jr. and Michael C. Thomas, \(American Beetles\). CRC Press, vol 2.

## **Books**

[change | change source]

- Pasquerault T. et al 2008. Répartition des espèces du genre Dermestes L. 1758 récoltés sur des cadavres humains (Coleoptera Dermestidae). L'entomologiste Tome 64 N°4 pp 221-224.
- Hinton H.E. 1945. *A monograph of the beetles associated with stored products*. **1**, 387–395 British Museum (Natural History), London. Keys to world adults and larvae, genera and species; excellent figures, full species information.
- Freude H; Harde K.W. & Lohse G.A. 1979. *Dermestidae*. *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas* **6**: Diversicornia (Lycidae Byrrhidae) 1206 text figs. 367pp. Goecke & Evers. Text in German; the Dermestidae are on pages 304–327.

# Other websites

[change | change source]

Wikispecies has information on: **Dermestidae**.

Wikimedia Commons has media related to **Dermestidae**.

- Dermestidae of the World
- <u>List of North American Species Archived 2008-02-05 at the Wayback Machine</u>
- Dermestidae-Literature
- Russian Atlas of Carpet Beetles-excellent images
- USDA Leaflet on Carpet beetles
- on the University of Florida / IFAS Featured Creatures Web site
  - Anthrenus flavipes, furniture carpet beetle
  - · Anthrenus scrophulariae, common carpet beetle
  - Dermestes atar, black larder beetle
  - Dermestes maculatus, hide beetle
- Carpet Beetles, Kansas State University [permanent dead link]

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