

COMMON BEDBUG

CIMEX LECTULARIUS

A quick ID for the Common Bedbug.

If in doubt, contact a trained and professional Pest Technician.



DESCRIPTION

Nymphs

- 1st instar nymphs can be no more than 1mm in length and are highly cryptic.
- Each instar requires a blood feed to grow to the next instar.

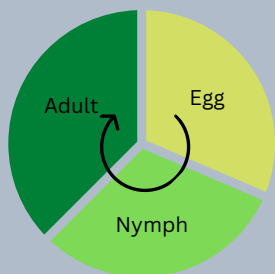
Adults

- 5-6mm as adults.
- Mahogany-brown colouration .
- Flat, ovoid body which will elongate dependant on level of blood feeding.

LIFE CYCLE

Incomplete Metamorphosis

- Nymphs and adults will both share feeding opportunities and harbourage.
- Infestations tend to rise slowly in a single environment usually in bedrooms and places where people rest.



Suspended animation

All stages of the bedbug can enter a state of diapause, waiting for extended periods for a host animal to present itself. Diapause is instigated through a drop in temperature combined with a removal of the host animal.

Not all life stages are equally robust in surviving this process with late instar nymphs being most robust.

POTENTIAL ISSUES

- **Health issues:** Allergic reactions, skin irritation, infections, and psychological stress.
- **Sleep Disruption:** Night-time bites lead to poor sleep and anxiety.
- **Economic Costs:** Expensive treatments, damaged property, and discarded belongings.
- **Property Value:** Decreased home or rental property value due to infestation.

SIGNS OF INFESTATION

What to look for

There are several key signs of infestation.

- Bedbugs will live in discrete clusters around the room.
- Dark spots on fabrics and mattresses.
- Cast skins around the bed and furniture.
- Musty odor.
- Live bedbugs and their eggs.

CONTROL

The key to bedbug control is being able to find as much of their population as possible. The use of chemical detection kits, dogs or traps can assist with this.

Physical control: Heat treatments have proven to be highly effective in controlling bedbugs, especially those showing high levels of chemical resistance.

Chemical controls: Due to the high level of chemical resistance to bedbugs worldwide, it is recommended that treatments show a long and effective residual profile, contain a metabolic synergist and ideally utilise an insect growth regulator.

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