

BED BUG PROFILE



Common name: Bed bug, mahogany flats

Scientific name: *Cimex lectularius*

Family: Cimicidae

Order: Hemiptera



Adult description

Bed bugs are flattened, brown to reddish brown and 6 to 7mm long. The hindwings are absent and the forewings are reduced to two small pads, leaving the abdomen exposed and about ¼” long (6 to 7mm).

Larva description

Bed bugs are true bugs, so they do not have a larval stage. Instead, they hatch from an egg and go through several nymphal stages. The nymphs look very similar to the adults but smaller and without wings.

Host(s)

They are obligate blood feeders, and they prefer to feed on humans. There are a number of other species that specialize in feeding on bats or birds that can occasionally be found feeding on humans.

Damage

Although their presence and feeding on humans may be distressing, they have never been shown to transmit disease. Bites may cause no reaction or rarely cause a severe allergic reaction. Typically bites cause some localized swelling and possibly redness and itching.

Distribution

The bug has been distributed nearly everywhere humans live. After becoming extremely rare in the United States after World War II, the bugs have had a resurgence in the last couple of decades.

Trap info

No trap is available. Typically a visual inspection is performed for adults and nymphs and the dark fecal droplets deposited in areas where they hide. Some pest control companies use trained detection dogs.

Current ODA survey

no