



Cigarette Beetle

Lasioderma serricorne

Description

Adults: These beetles are light brown, 2-3 mm (0.09 inches) long. The elytra (hardened wing covers) are smooth and not striated (rows of pits). The antennal segments are finely serrated (toothed) to the tips.

Eggs: Not readily visible without magnification. Eggs are slightly oval in shape, whitish in color, satin to glossy sheen, and approx 0.2-0.5 mm (0.019 inches) long.

Larvae: Creamy white, C- shaped, very hairy, with a large distinct head, and three pair of thoracic legs.

Pupae: Pupal cases are whitish; pupal chambers are created within food material.

Life Cycle

The female beetle will lay up to 100 eggs during a 2-4 week life span. Larvae will tunnel through the food product for about 4-5 weeks. The average life cycle will take 6-8 weeks depending on humidity and temperature. These beetles are excellent flyers and are most active in the late afternoons. It can only survive in warm buildings in temperate regions.

Damage and Detection

Packages and food products infested with these beetles usually have shot holes where adults have emerged from pupation. Adults and larvae cause damage. 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 tobacco and other processed foods such as spices, flour, meal, and dog food, but can also attack horn, wool, hair, hide, pharmaceuticals and even book bindings. It is a common household pest.

Corresponding Products from Insects Limited

- [Bullet Lures Only \(IL-108\)](#)
- [Hanging NoSurvivor Traps and Bullet Lures \(IL-408\)](#)
- [Hanging NoSurvivor Traps and Lures \(IL-564\)](#)
- [All Beetle Trap with RTU Gel \(IL-2750\)](#)

QUICK SCAN

SIZE / LENGTH

Adult	0.9 inch (2-3 mm)
Eggs	0.019 inch (0.2-0.5 mm)

COLOR RANGE

Adult	Light brown
Larvae	Creamy white, very hairy

LIFE CYCLE

Females	Lays up to 100 eggs
Larvae	Tunnel for 4-5 weeks
Lifecycle	6-8 weeks

FEEDING HABITS

Adults and larvae cause damage. Commonly found in tobacco and other processed foods such as spices, flour, meal, and dog food.

INFESTATION SIGNS

Packages and food products infested with these beetles usually have shot holes where adults have emerged from pupation. Adults and larvae cause damage.



Cigarette Beetle Monitoring Guidelines

Lure

BULLET LURE Contains sex pheromone to attract male beetles.

PANTRY PATROL Pheromone /oil dispenser. Contains grain-based food attractants to attract males and female as well as sex pheromones to attract male Cigarette beetle.

ALL BEETLE TRAP READY-TO-USE TRAY is a preloaded accessory of the **ALL BEETLE TRAP** that contains either the **PANTRY PATROL** Pheromone/oil dispenser or the **STORED PRODUCT BEETLE LURE** and glueboard.

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.

Trap Designs Used with Lure

NOSURVIVOR TRAPS are diamond shaped sticky traps designed to be hung.

ALL BEETLE TRAP consists of three parts: A clear lid, blue base, and snap in tray. This device can be paired with many different types of attractants available by Insects Limited depending on the insect you are monitoring.

PANTRY PATROL “CORNER” pitfall traps contain a triangular pit to receive full dispenser of pheromone /oil. Dust cover is incorporated into cardboard packaging.

Trap Placement Techniques

Pheromone traps can be out placed year-round but are especially recommend when temperatures exceed 12.5°C (55°F). Floor pheromone traps like the All Beetle Trap and Flat Trap are more effective at capturing cigarette beetle compared to hanging pheromone traps, however, hanging pheromone traps tend to stay clean longer and 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 pantry or home, place one or two pheromone traps per room. In commercial areas such as warehouses or retail stores, place pheromone traps 7.5–15 m (25–50 feet) apart to determine the presence or absence of cigarette beetle. Increase pheromone trap density to 4.5–7.5 m (15–25 feet) apart to help locate source of cigarette beetle. Keep pheromone traps 7.5 m (25 feet) away from exterior doors. Cigarette beetle pheromone traps are best utilized in areas that store dried goods such as food, grains, seeds, tobacco, spices, hay, dried fruit, nuts, 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 drugstore beetles (*Stegobium paniceum*) and common furniture beetle (*Anobium punctatum*).
- Other common names include cascarudo cigarrero, cigar beetle, tobacco beetle, tow bug, small tobacco beetle, and stored snuff beetle.
- Cigarette beetles carry a symbiotic yeast that assists in digestion of less nutritious foods and can provide resistance to certain toxins.
- Cigarette beetles initiate flight at temperatures above 20°C (68°F).