**Cigarette Beetle**  
*Lasioderma serricorne*

**Description**

Adults: These beetles are light brown, 1/10 inch long. The elytra (hardened wing covers) are smooth and not striated (rows of pits). The antennal segments are finely serrated (toothed) to the tips.

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

Pupae: Pupal cases whitish; inside a pupal chamber within food material.

**Damage and Detection**

Packages 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 leather, horn, wool, hair, pharmaceuticals and even bookbindings. It is a common household pest.

**Life Cycle**

The female beetle will lay up to 100 eggs during a 2-4 week life span. Larvae will tunnel through the food substance for about 4-5 weeks. The life cycle on average will take 6-8 weeks depending on humidity and temperature. These beetles are excellent flyers and are active on late afternoons and on cloudy days. It can only survive in warm buildings in temperate regions. This beetle has the largest range of foods and non-food in which it can be found infesting than any other pest.

**Lures**

- **BULLET LURE®** - Contains sex pheromone to attract male beetles. Effective duration of attraction is 6-8 weeks.
- **Serrico Lure®** - Contains sex pheromone to attract male beetles. Effective duration of attraction is 6-8 weeks.

**Lure Storage**

Keep unopened foil pouches in cool storage (less than 60° F) or place in freezer for extended storage. Lures can remain frozen for up to 12 months to retain their full effectiveness for use afterwards. Shelf life of lures at room temperatures is 6 months.

**Trap Designs used with Lure**

- No Survivor Traps® are diamond shaped sticky traps designed to be hung.
- Flat traps and Serrico traps are low profile flat rectangular sticky traps that can be placed on level surfaces.

**Trap Placement Techniques**

**Timing** - Traps can be placed year round but should be in greater numbers during the warmer months.

**Density** - It is recommended that traps be placed near materials susceptible to attack at one per every 15 feet. In large warehouses traps may be placed every 25 feet apart.

**Location** - Place hanging traps at just above eye height in rooms or warehouses where food is stored. Stealth or Serrico traps can be placed inside drawers, under or above cabinets, inside cupboards and more confined spaces where hanging traps cannot fit.

**Trap and Lure Maintenance**

Traps must be replaced when filled with beetles or become dusty. Traps may remain sticky for many months. Lures must be replaced every 6-8 weeks. The old lure should be removed from the trap. Trapped beetles should be recorded regularly on a separate monitoring Data Sheet to determine trapping trends. Write down the date for new lures and new traps on the trap, as they may not be replaced at the same time.

**Expectations and Interpretations**

- 1 beetle per trap per week -- Inspection of materials susceptible to attack should be carried out.
- 3-5 beetles/ trap per week -- Serious damage is likely on a single product or location in the area of the trap.
- 10 + beetles/trap per week -- Serious wide spread damage has occurred to food products in the storage area.

**Important Notes:**

Large numbers of beetles require other means of control and management to eradicate infestations. A large number of traps may catch sufficient number of males to prevent females from becoming fertile (mass trapping). Female beetles however, may actively fly around and not be attracted to the traps.