



## COMMAND PEST CONTROL

### Information sheet number 51 – Leather or hide beetle



Adult beetle



Larva

#### Appearance:

The hide or leather beetle is similar in shape to the larder beetle except the wing covers are entirely dark and the body underside is mostly white they are 10mm. All larvae are longer than adult beetles (up to 12-15mm), slender, densely covered with short and long hairs and reddish-brown to black, with two spines on top near the tail end. Larder beetle larvae spines curve backward, hide or leather beetle larvae spines curve forward.

#### Breeding:

Adult hide or leather beetles and larvae prefer to feed on raw skins and hides. Females may each lay up to 800 eggs. The life cycle is completed in 60 to 70 days

#### Food:

Old wasp and hornet nests are often infested. Flies such as the cluster fly and Autumn fly, abundant in the autumn, hibernate in home wall voids, attics, overhangs, etc. Many die in inaccessible places and become a prime food source for larder beetles. Stuffed animals, leather, skins, furs, decomposing remains. These beetles will infest museum collections of insects, animals, etc., if not properly preserved

#### Where do Hide or leather beetles live?

Mature larvae of hide beetles have the habit of boring into various hard surfaces to pupate, usually preferring softwoods. Some may climb 8 to 12 metres and bore into posts, studs and rafters seriously weakening and "honeycombing" these structures. Larvae are especially troublesome in poultry and pig houses, damaging yellow pine, foam insulation. Larvae have been known to bore through lead and tin materials for pupation also.

**For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049**