



# What's Eating Your Collection?

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## Hide beetle larva *Dermestes* sp.

Full grown larva, two small hooks at the back end

Size: 1mm when first hatched to 15mm when full grown

Shape: Torpedo shaped, tapered to the rear end.

Colour: Dark, with creamy bands sometimes visible

Antennae: Not visible

Distinguishing features: Bands of spiky hairs. Two curved "horns" called urogomphi, at the back end.

Hide beetle larvae are very difficult to distinguish from one another as the key feature is the shape of the urogomphi.

Larvae are pests of: dried animal protein such as dead rodents and birds. Larvae of *D. peruvianus* will also eat human food debris. When fully grown, they may tunnel into wood to pupate.

*D. lardarius* often found in chimney flues of historic houses. *D. peruvianus* is often found in mess rooms/catering areas.



## Related Objects



Dermestes larva cast  
skin



Dermestes larvae  
tunneling in wood



Hide or leather beetle  
*Dermestes maculatus*