



DERMESTID BEETLES

Dr. Mahesha H B
Professor and Head
Department of Sericulture
Yuvaraja's College,
University of Mysore, Mysuru, India

The name **Coleoptera**, derived from the Greek words "**koleos**" meaning **sheath** and "**ptera**" meaning **wings**, refers to the modified front wings which serve as protective covers for the membranous hind wings.



- **ORDER – COLEOPTERA**
- **FAMILY – DERMESTIDAE**

*Dermestes ater, D. cadverinus, D. vulpinus,
Anthrenus verbasci and A. pipinellae*

Reported in India, Japan & other countries

Occurs throughout the year & mostly cosmopolitan.

Nature of Damage: Attack pupae and Adults in
Grainages, Causes Extensive Damage to Stored
Cocoons

Damaged Cocoons



**Initially light yellow > Black, 7mm,
oviposition after 5 days**

**Milky White, elongated, Size 1.9x0.48 mm
Incubation 3-6 days**



Egg

Dermestes ater,



**Spindle, covered with hairs, 2.4 mm
length, white turns brown.
II instar > black. moults 4-6 in 27-28 days**

Pupation 7-8 days



Prevention and Control

- **Avoid storage of unwanted cocoons for long period.**
- **Periodic Cleaning of rearing house & cocoon storage.**
- **Periodic cleaning of Grainages.**
- **Dipping of wooden articles with in 0.2 % Melathion for 2-3 min, Sundried & Use.**
- **Passing of Hot Air (50-60°C) to Maintain low humidity i.e., @ 30% helps to kill beetles**
- **Fumigation of Cocoon storage room with Methyl Bromide 0.5 g/m².**



Acknowledgements to

I. INTERNET

**II. HAND BOOK ON PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL OF
MULBERRY AND SILKWORM**