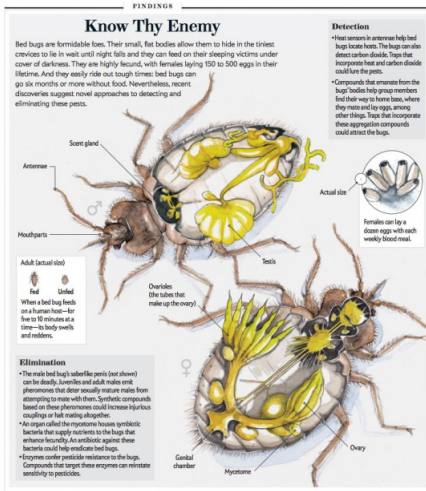


Bed Bug Anatomy

By DoMyOwn staff



damaging excretions. A V-shaped groove in the abdomen called the ectopermalgia channels the excretion so that the dung is less costly. Once inside the female's body cavity, the sperm and any accompanying pathogens encounter a barrier of blood cells loosely organized into an organ with presumed immune function—the mesopermalgia. The sperm must migrate through the mesopermalgia to a storage area near the base of each ovary. Yet even with these adaptations, my laboratory colonies of bed bugs drift to make predominantly because of the injuries caused by multiple excretions. Without human intervention, the colonies would go extinct.

In the real world, the bed bugs carry on, probably because females disperse to escape damaging excretions. Why have bed bugs taken off on this costly evolutionary trajectory, whereas females of millions of other insect species have reproductive openings that males use to inseminate them without injury? My colleagues

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Illustrations by Mike Rodden

- **Internal Anatomy:**
 - Males: Scent glands, testis, intestines
 - Females: Scent glands, intestines, genital chamber, mycetome, ovaries, and ovarioles
- **External Anatomy:**
 - Bed bugs have three body segments: Head, thorax, and abdomen
 - Two antennae
 - Two eyes
 - Six legs
 - Reddish brown in color
 - Bright red after being engorged from a blood meal
- Piercing sucking mouth parts, also known as a sharp proboscis, that they insert into the human host's skin
- **Differences between sexes:**
 - Males have sharpened genitalia
 - Female have a softened abdominal region for copulation
- **Primary source of nourishment**
 - **Human blood**
 - Sometimes other mammal's and bird's blood

Example of Bed bug Nymph up close:



This nymph picture of a bed bug is noticeably more transparent and lighter colored than the adult forms.

Example of bed bug probing human skin up close:



This is an adult female bed bug on the surface the skin, take special notice to the dark rust color and circular abdomen region.

See also: [Bed Bug Identification](#)