

## Look-a-likes



Varied carpet beetle



Ticks



Lint and/or debris



Spider beetles etc.

## Suggestions for health departments

- Once a complaint is received, identify the insect, do not rely on hearsay
- In multi-unit housing, identify human social networks (friendships within a building, home help, family, common areas etc.) which could spread bed bugs
- Know Connecticut landlord– tenant laws and health department regulations
- Remain calm and professional and be available to coordinate treatment activities
- Educate citizens using handouts and/or meetings to erode anxiety and stigma and foster cooperation
- Once treatment is complete always follow up around 10 days later with calls and/or visits
- Keep detailed records

## Important contact information

### Identification and help

Dr. Gale E. Ridge (203) 974-8600  
Email photographs: gale.ridge@ct.gov  
Bed bug website: [www.ct.gov/caes](http://www.ct.gov/caes)

### Treatment

Pest Management Professionals who are state licensed and work with bed bugs

<http://www.cpcanet.net/cpca/BedBugList.pdf>

### State of Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice Housing Session

New Haven, (203) 773-6755  
Bridgeport, (203) 579-7237  
Hartford, (860) 756-7810  
New London, (860) 443-8444  
E-mail: [judith.dicine@po.state.ct.us](mailto:judith.dicine@po.state.ct.us)  
(please write bed bug in the subject box)

### Connecticut Department of Public Health, local health administration

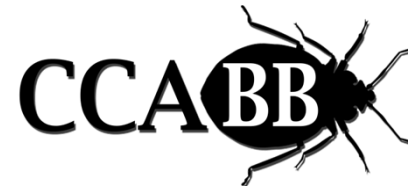
Hartford, CT (860) 509-7660  
[webmaster.dph@ct.gov](mailto:webmaster.dph@ct.gov) (please write bed bug in the subject box)

### Enforcement, Certification

#### DEP pesticide management division

Hartford CT (860) 424-3369  
E-mail: [diane.jorsey@ct.gov](mailto:diane.jorsey@ct.gov) (please write bed bug in the subject box)

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Connecticut Coalition Against Bed Bugs

## Connecticut Health Department Bed Bug Identification Guide

Dr. Gale E. Ridge



Photo: Michael Thomas

**Your local health department**

## Considerations for “biting” reports

### Citizens who report unexplained biting



**Bed bugs have piercing sucking mouthparts, they do not have biting mouthparts (see photograph above).**

**Insect feeding** lesions especially bed bugs, are inconclusive unless the insects are found. Each person reacts differently to feeding, and skin reaction times vary from immediate up to 14 days post feeding. Reactions vary from nothing to severe blistering. Feeding sites are often itchy. Do not rely on feeding patterns such as lines or clusters of “bites” to diagnose bed bug activity, bed bug feeding is often random.

**Other causes** for reported “insect biting” may include:-

- Delusions of Parasitosis/Eckbom syndrome
- Numerous allergies
- Stress, anxiety, isolation, and/or depression
- Medical conditions such as thyroid, menopause, legal and illegal drug reaction, dry skin, anemia, diabetes, arthritis, aging, auto immune disease, medical error, stroke, disease, and so on
- Poisoning from carbon monoxide, fluoride, or heavy metals etc.

### Common bed bug *Cimex lectularius* L.



### Common bed bug *Cimex lectularius* L.



### Eastern bat bug *Cimex adjunctus* Barber



### Eastern bat bug *Cimex adjunctus*

