

# Bed Bug Predators

By DoMyOwn staff

## What eats bed bugs?

This list of insects are natural bed bug predators that eat bed bugs. These insects and spiders can be drawn to infestations or high populations of bed bugs in certain areas. They might help give away the bed bug's location.

### The Masked Hunter Insect or Masked Bed Bug Hunter

- *Reduvius personatus*
- **Family Reduviidae** which is known as the assassin bugs
- The masked hunter primarily feeds on bedbugs and other insects
- If it is mishandled it may bite humans in defense.

### Cockroaches

- All semi-domestic and domestic house cockroaches have been seen and documented eating bed bugs since the 11th and 12th centuries
- **Order Blattodea**
  - **Family Blattidae**
    - Oriental Cockroach
      - *Blatta orientalis*
    - American Cockroach
      - *Periplaneta americana*
  - **Family Blattellidae**
    - German Cockroach
      - *Blattella germanica*
    - Brown-banded Cockroach
      - *Supella longipalpa*

### Ants

- **Pharaoh ants:**
  - It is documented that pharaoh ants are the number one species of ant that has been seen targeting and eating bed bugs
  - Pharaoh ants are tiny
- Most ant species will eat anything including bed bugs

### Spiders

- The species:
  - *Thanatus flavidus*
  - This is the spider of the family **Philodromidae**
  - It is found in Greece, Russia and Ukraine
  - Studies and research have list this species for hunting bedbugs.

### Mites

- This is the species best known as the common house dust mites
- They inhabit the same areas in bedding as bed bugs and have been known to feed on them.
  - Subclass Acari
    - Superorder Acariformes
      - Order: Acariformes
        - Family: Pyroglyphidae
          - *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*
- **Centipedes**
  - Centipedes feed on a variety of invertebrates such as bed bugs, spiders, termites, cockroaches, silverfish, ants, and other household arthropods
  - House centipedes are the typical species of centipede to feed on bed bugs
    - Phylum: Arthropoda
      - Class: Chilopoda
        - Order: Scutigermorpha
          - Family: Scutigridae
            - *Species: Scutigera coleoptrata*