

# Bedbugs

L-154

By

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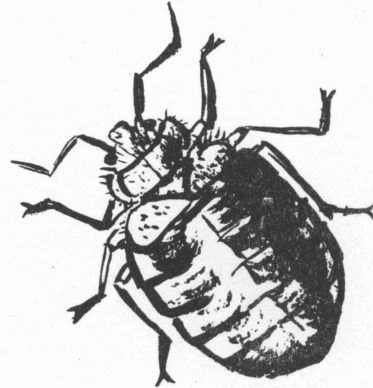
## Life History and Habits

The common bedbug is an old and unwelcome guest of man. It is reddish brown in color, ovate in shape, about one-fifth of an inch long. It has a distinctive odor. The insect, nocturnal in habit, feeds only at night. Besides man, other common hosts are rats, mice and poultry. It may also infest chicken houses and coops.

The bedbug is capable of living for a year without food. It may crawl from one apartment to another or to another house in close proximity. Incipient infestations are usually established by bringing the insect into the home in handbags and other articles.

The bedbug reproduces rapidly. A female lays 200 to 500 eggs during a period of two to three months. When conditions are favorable, a life-cycle can be completed in six to eight weeks. Three or four generations in a year are possible.

As the bedbug is a common parasite of man it has been carefully studied as a possible vector of human diseases. It has not been found to be an important vector of any disease.



## Control

A number of remedies have been employed in bedbug control but their use has now been superseded by the newer chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides. The bed, together with the springs and mattress, should be thoroughly sprayed with five per cent DDT household spray. The cracks and crevices of the woodwork of the room should be treated also. Chlordane is efficient in bedbug control, but its toxicity to man is greater than DDT.

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