

# Darkling Beetles

## A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

### Care and handling

Darkling Beetles are the adult stage of over 20,000 species; however, we use Darkling Beetle to refer to the adult of the Superworm (*Zophobas morio*). If you are interested in the adult of *Tenebrio molitor*, see the Mealworm CareSheet.

The larval stage of *Zophobas* is known as the Superworm and has its own CareSheet.

### Habitat

A terrarium makes a good habitat for this beetle. Put 1 ½ to 2" of potting soil in the bottom of the tank. Cover the surface with paper towels, leaf litter, or bran meal/oat flakes. They do best in dark, cool, dry places.

### Maintenance

These beetles extract water from their food. Additionally, their hard carapace is covered with a wax-like substance that prevents water from evaporating from their bodies. If you wish to give supplemental water, place a moistened sponge or cotton wick into the habitat

Adult Darkling Beetles are scavengers, eating both fresh and decaying vegetation. In nature, they feed on dried or rotting plant matter. In captivity, they feed on bran meal, apples, oranges, potatoes, cucumber, romaine lettuce, and pears. Remove uneaten food before it molds. Darkling beetles are active both during the day and at night. With simple care, they can live from three months to over a year.

### FAQ's

*Can these beetles bite?*

No, they are completely harmless. Their only defense is to release a mildly offensive odor.

*Can Darkling Beetles be held in a refrigerator?*

No, temperatures below 15.5°C (60°F) may kill the beetles.

*Can these beetles be released?*

No, they are native to South and Central America. They have the potential to survive and establish themselves in the wild in the southern United States. Unwanted Darkling Beetles should be frozen or fed to a pet reptile or amphibian.

**Problems?** We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

**Orders and replacements:** 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

**Technical Support and Questions:** [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com)



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