



# Blue Death Feigning Beetle

## *Asbolus verrucosus*

**Description:** Average length is 3/4 of an inch with a spiky dorsal abdomen. Their body is actually black. The blue coloring comes from wax that is secreted for protection against dehydration and overheating.

**Habitat:** Deserts with moderately moist soil around decaying vegetation.

**Range:** Native to the Sonoran Desert.

**Natural diet:** Fresh or decaying vegetation.

**Zoo diet:** Fresh produce.

**Life span:** Up to 8 years.

**Behavior:** As the name implies, they will play dead if threatened. They live in colonies, but forage separately.

They are completely harmless at all life stages.

**Reproduction:** Their larvae are a type of mealworm and they exhibit complete metamorphosis.

**Conservation Status:** Has not been evaluated by the IUCN.

