



# ACE Preparation Course

GENERAL PEST KNOWLEDGE:  
STORED PRODUCT PESTS



# Stored product pest familiarity list

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Carpet beetles (*Anthrenus* and *Attagenus* species)\*\*

Cigarette and drugstore beetle (*Lasioderma serricorne* and *Stegobium paniceum*)\*\*

Flour beetles (*Tribolium* spp.)\*\*

Hide and larder beetles (*Dermestes* species)\*\*

Mites (stored product)\*\*

Psocids (Order Psocoptera)\*\*

Sawtoothed grain beetles (*Oryzaephilus* spp.)\*\*

Spider beetles (family Ptinidae)

Weevils (family Curculionidae)\*\*

Rice Weevil (*Sitophilus oryzae*)

Bean Weevil (*Acanthocelides obtectus*)

Cowpea Weevil (*Callosobruchus maculatus*)

Warehouse & Cabinet Beetles (*Trogoderma* spp.)\*\*

Foreign Grain Beetle (*Ahasverus advena*)

Plaster Beetles (family Lathridiidae)

Red-Legged Ham Beetle (*Necrobia rufipes*)

Cadelle (*Tenebriodes mauritanicus*)

Flat Grain Beetle (*Cryptolestes pusillus*)

Mealworm Beetles (*Tenebrio* spp.)

Mediterranean Flour Moth (*Anagasta kuehniella*)

Angoumois Grain Moth (*Sitotroga cerealella*)

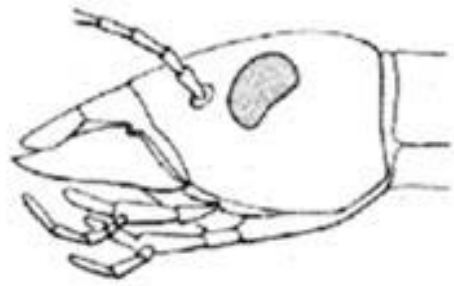
Indian meal moth (*Plodia interpunctella*)\*\*



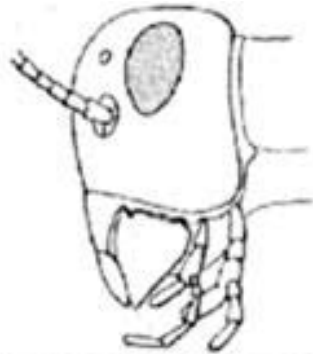
# Tools for identification

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# Beetle anatomy



prognathous



hypognathous

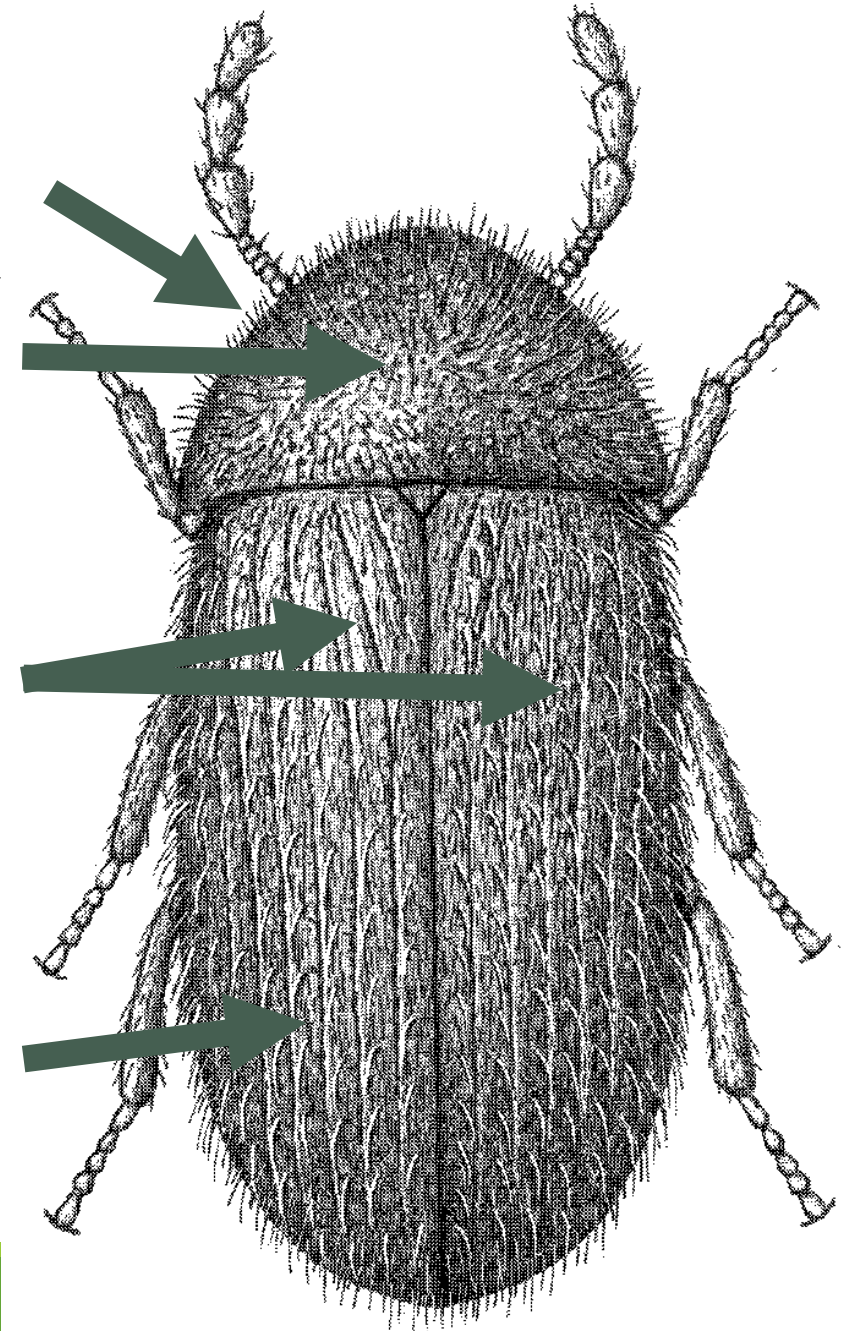
Head direction

Head

Pronotum

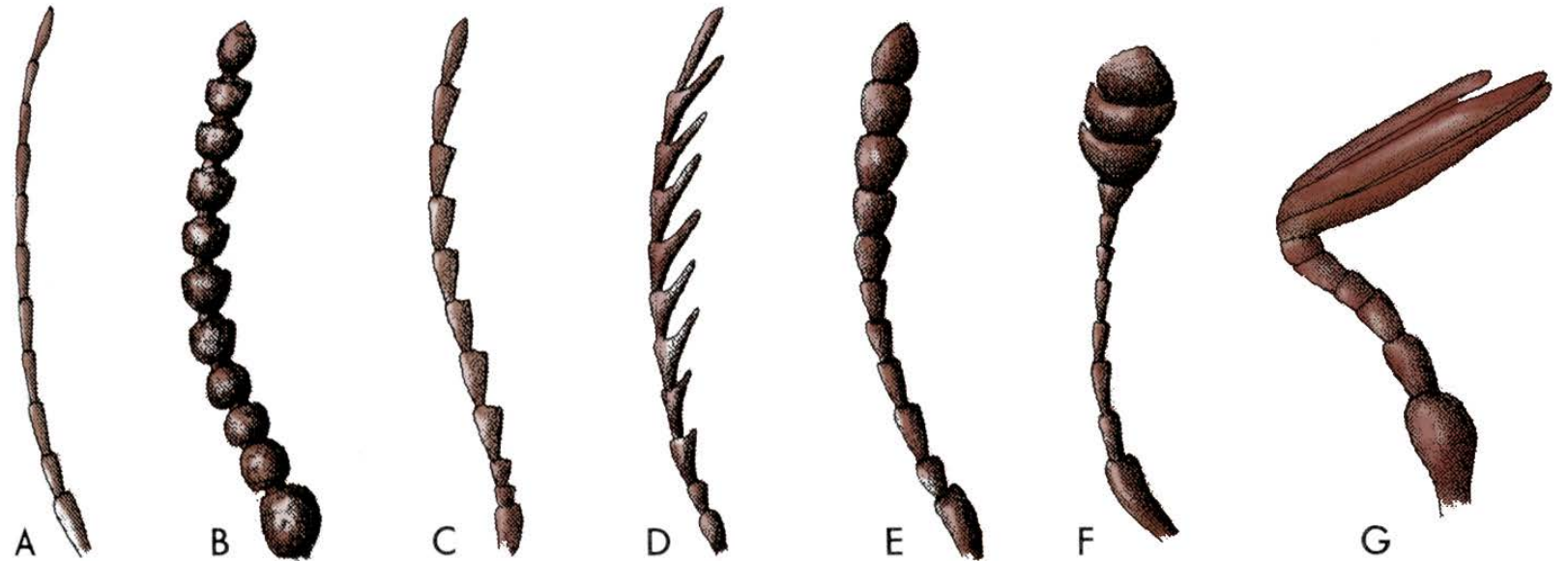
Elytra

Striations



# Beetle antenna types

- A. Threadlike
- B. Beadlike
- C. Saw-toothed (serrate)
- D. Comb-like (pectinate)
- E. Clubbed (gradual)
- F. Clubbed (abrupt)
- G. lamellate



# Stored product pests

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## Where found:

- Homes, pantries
- Commercial food warehouses
- Food processing plants, shipping, warehouses
- Restaurants
- Museums
- Others



# Commonly Infested Commodities

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## Products with plant proteins

- Farinaceous (grain-based) products
- Dried vegetables, fruits and nuts
- Spices, dried flowers, potpourri
- Chocolates and candy
- Dry pet food

## Products with animal protein

- Hides, furs, trophy heads, museum specimens
- Feathers
- Dried meats, milk, cheese products
- Woolens, silks



Eukanuba  
Adult/Adulte  
Large Breed Grande race  
NET WT. / PDS NET: 4.54 kg (10 lb)

TRECE

Eukanuba  
Adult/Adulte  
Large Breed Grande race  
NET WT. / PDS NET: 4.54 kg (10 lb)

Eukanuba  
Adult/Adulte  
Large Breed Grande race  
NET WT. / PDS NET: 4.54 kg (10 lb)

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Large Breed Grande race  
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Eukanuba  
Adult/Adulte  
Large Breed Grande race  
NET WT. / PDS NET: 4.54 kg (10 lb)

Eukanuba  
Puppy/Chiots  
Small Breed  
Pettite race  
ADULT POUR CHIENS  
Vital Health System  
NET WT. / PDS NET: 3.63 kg (8 lbs)

IAMS  
Lamb & Rice  
ADULT MEDIUM & LARGE BREED

Eukanuba  
Adult/Adulte  
Large Breed Grande race  
NET WT. / PDS NET: 4.54 kg (10 lb)

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Large Breed Grande race  
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NET WT. / PDS NET: 4.54 kg (10 lb)

Eukanuba  
Adult/Adulte  
Large Breed Grande race  
NET WT. / PDS NET: 4.54 kg (10 lb)

...e Lifelong Health & Your  
... 35 lb (15.9 kg)

Eukanuba  
Adult/Adulte  
Large Breed Grande race  
NET WT. / PDS NET: 4.54 kg (10 lb)

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Eukanuba  
Adult/Adulte  
Large Breed Grande race  
NET WT. / PDS NET: 4.54 kg (10 lb)

PRO PLAN  
NEW!  
PUPPY 28 13  
LARGE BREED FORMULA

PRO PLAN  
NEW!  
PUPPY 28 13  
LARGE BREED FORMULA

PRO PLAN  
NEW!  
PUPPY 28 13  
LARGE BREED FORMULA

PRO PLAN  
NEW!  
PUPPY 28 13  
LARGE BREED FORMULA



# Principal types of feeders

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**Internal Feeders** - larvae develop within kernel of whole grain or seed

**External Feeders** - larvae develop outside whole grain kernels but are capable of feeding on both whole grains & processed grains

**Scavengers** - only attack grains that have been processed or damaged by feeding of other insects

**Secondary pests** - infest grain products that are out of condition or moldy

# Weevils

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Beetles in family Curculionidae

Generally long proboscis, clubbed antenna

Most are internal feeders on grains, nuts



# *Internal Feeder* Rice Weevil

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2-3 mm

Brown with *closely* spaced, oval pits on thorax and lighter X-marking on wing covers

Attracted to lights, can fly

Life cycle 30+ days

Commonly infest whole corn, wheat, barley, rice, and occasionally old pasta

# *Internal Feeder* Granary Weevil

*Sitophilus granarius*

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UGA5321098

[www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)

Australian Pest & Disease Image Library

3-5 mm

Reddish brown with widely spaced, oval pits on thorax

Not attracted to lights

Cannot fly

Life cycle 30-50 days

Commonly infest whole corn, wheat, barley, rice, sunflower seeds, and occasionally old pasta

Rice Weevil

Granary Weevil

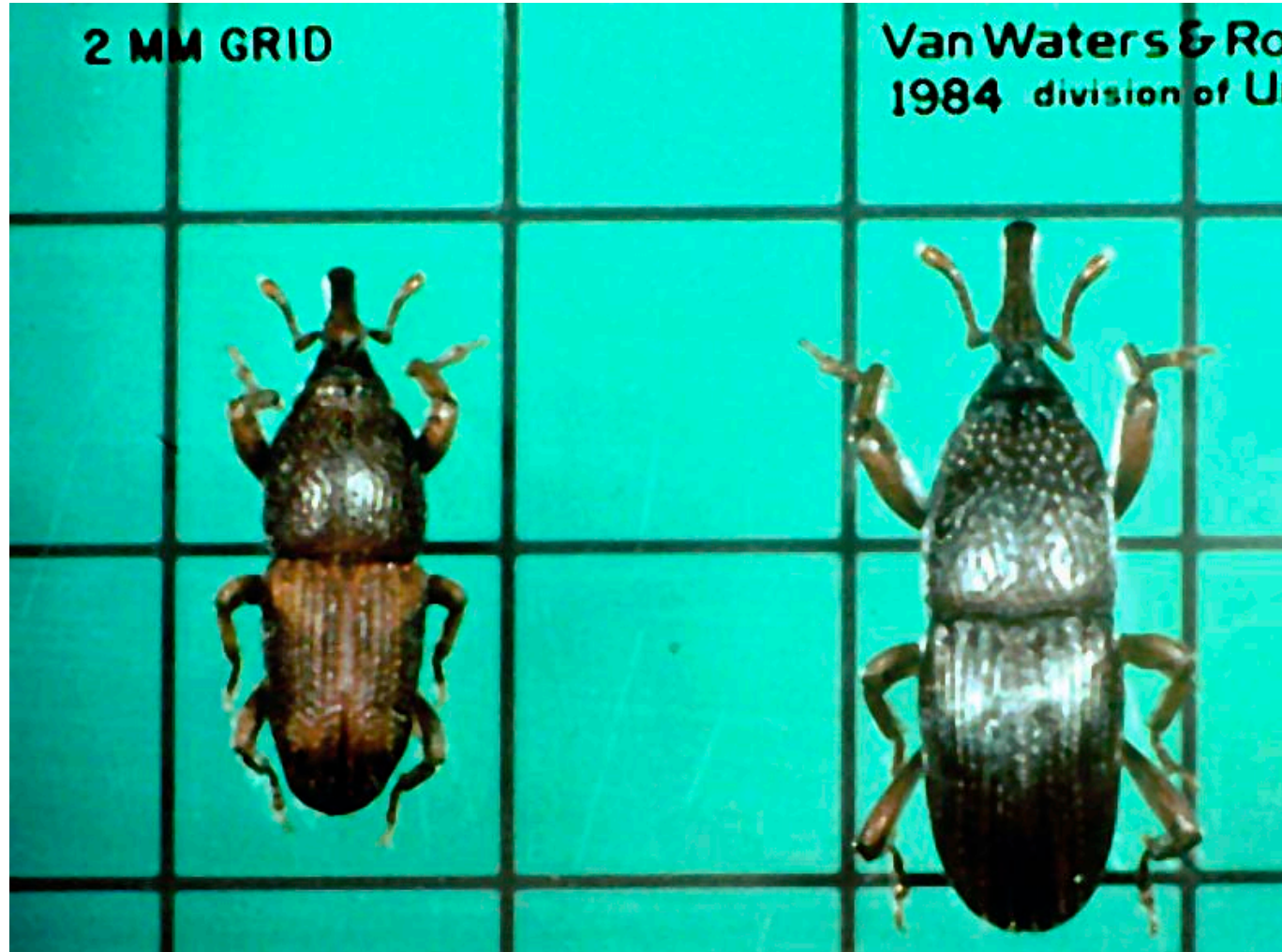


Photo: Univar

# Bean & pea weevils

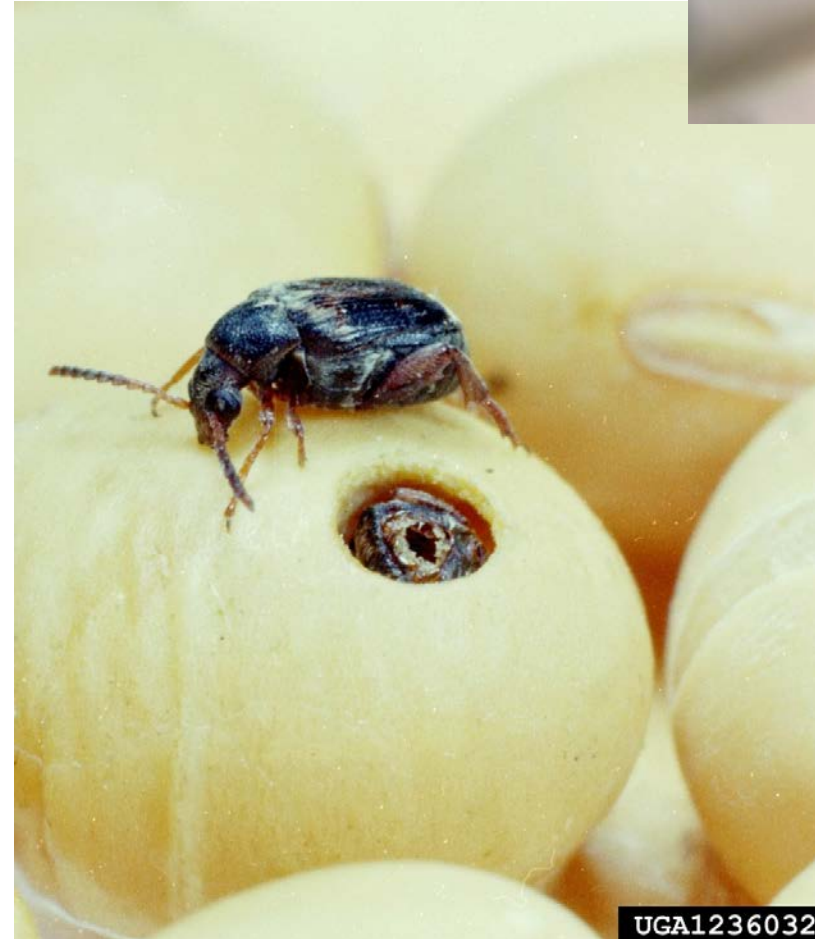
Family Bruchidae. Without long proboscis of true weevils

Characteristic shape (heavy body, v-shaped head, large eyes, serrate antennae)

Internal feeders on peas, beans, peanuts; leave round exit holes in beans



UGA5295031



UGA1236032

Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension  
Slide Series, Bugwood.org. Lower: Bean weevil, *Acanthoscelides  
obtectus*; Upper: *Mimosestes nubilans*

*Internal Feeder*

# Angoumois Grain Moth

*Sitotroga cerealella*

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Wing span 13 mm (1/2 inch)

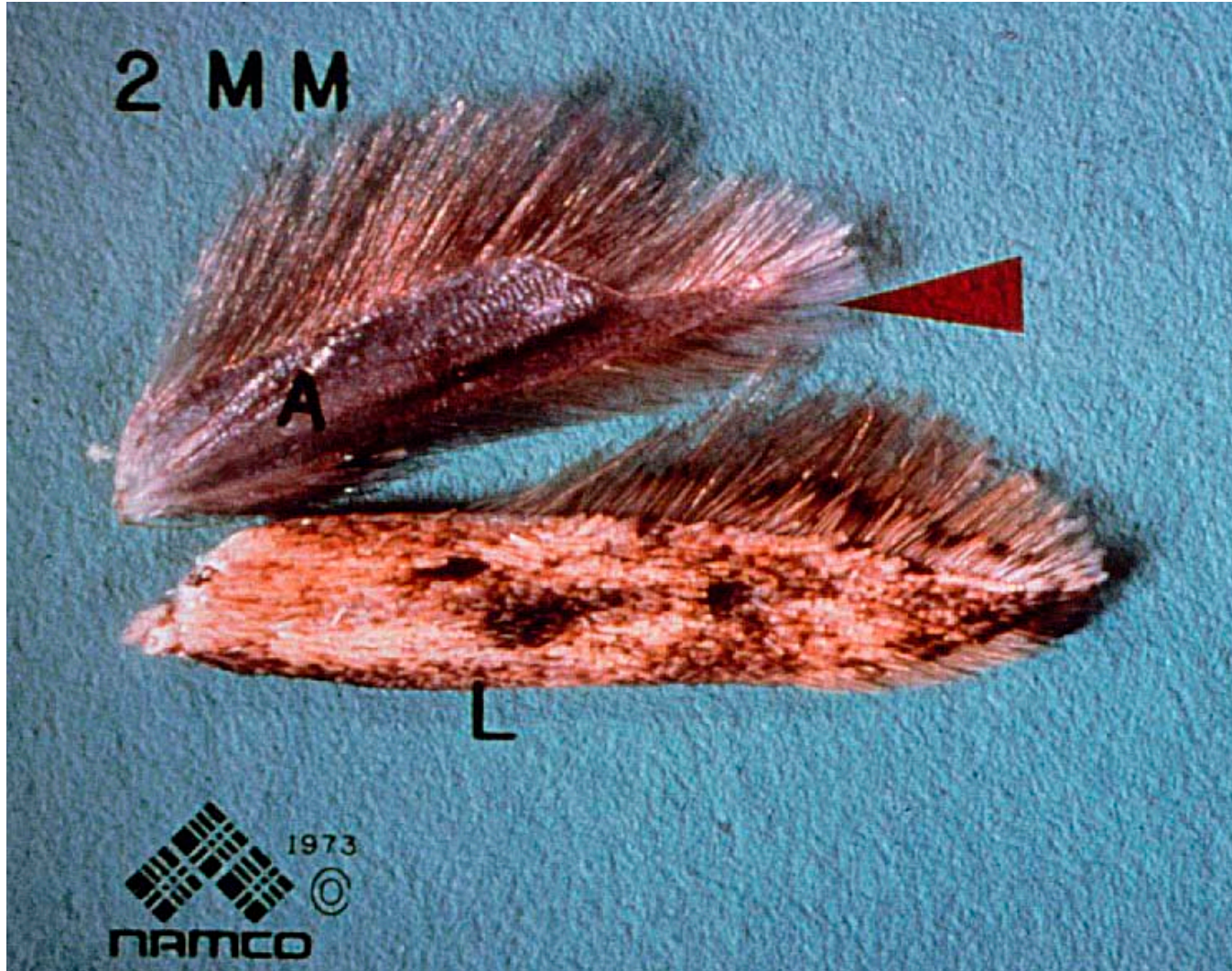
Yellowish white with pale yellow forewings

Life cycle 35-50 days

Commonly infests barley, rye, corn, oats, rice



Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension  
Slide Series, Bugwood.org



Angoumois  
grain  
moth: wing

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# Angoumois grain moth as internal feeder

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Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org

# *External Feeder*

## Drugstore Beetle

*Stegobium paniceum*

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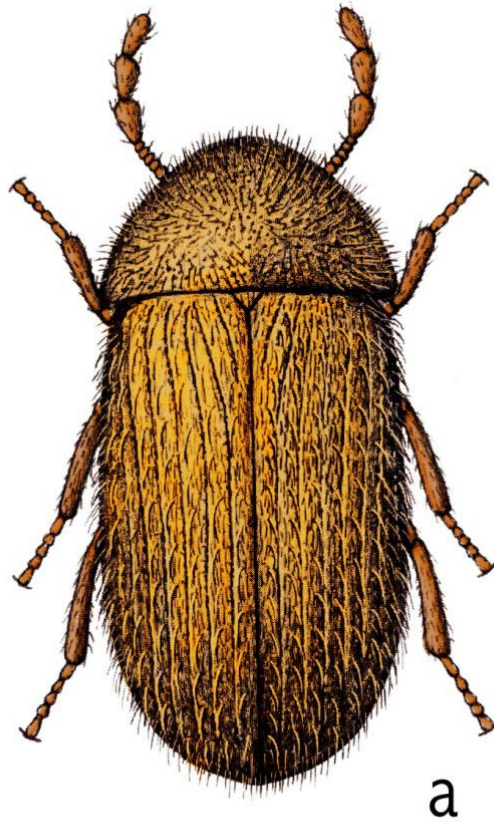


Image modified from USDA

2-3 mm, common

Brown, elytra with rows of longitudinal grooves, antennae with loose 3-segmented club

Attracted to lights, can fly

Life cycle 60-210 days

Infests wide variety of products

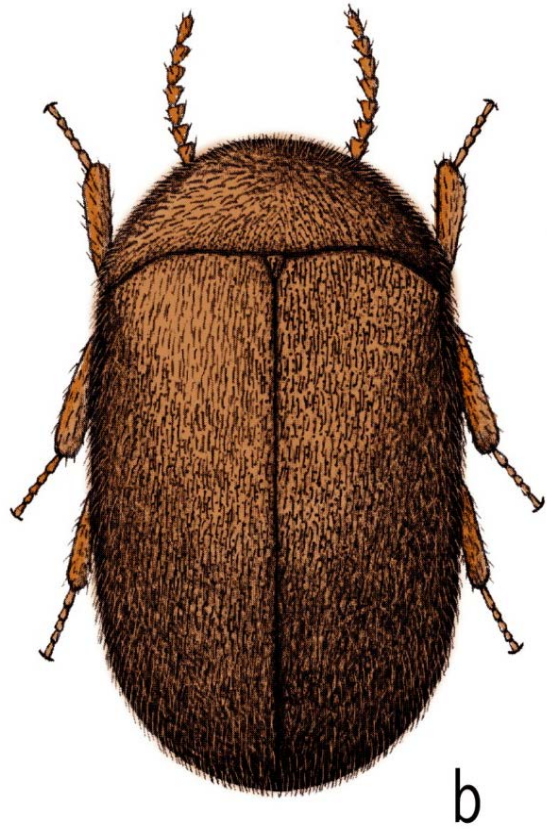
- pet food, cereals, drugs, peppers, spices, dried fruits, flour pasta

*External Feeder*

# Cigarette Beetle

*Lasioderma serricorne*

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b

2-3 mm, very common

brown, elytra smooth with no grooves, serrate antennae, no club

Attracted to lights

Can fly

Life cycle 30-50 days

Infests wide variety of products

- pet food, cereals, tobacco, peppers, spices, dried fruits, seeds, flour, pasta

Images modified from USDA

# *Cigarette & Drug Store Beetle Antennae*



Photo: Univar



# Dermestid beetles

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Important family identified by oval shape, short clubbed antennae, head often hidden, often covered with patterned scales

Important Genera:

- *Trogoderma*: warehouse, khapra\* beetles
- *Anthrenus*: varied and furniture carpet beetles,
- *Attagenus*: black carpet beetle
- *Dermestes*: hide and carpet beetles



\* not found in U.S., but major worldwide pest and a quarantine species in US

# *External Feeder* Hide Beetle

*Dermestes maculatus*



Various species feed on meats, pet foods containing meat products, dead animals, hides, trophy heads, skins.

Life cycle 2+ months

Larva with banded appearance, hairy, two terminal horns (urogomphi)



Dermestids used in skull cleaning



## *External Feeder*

# Warehouse Beetle

*Trogoderma variable*



Brownish black with elytra having mottled patterns of brown against a dark background & numerous hairs

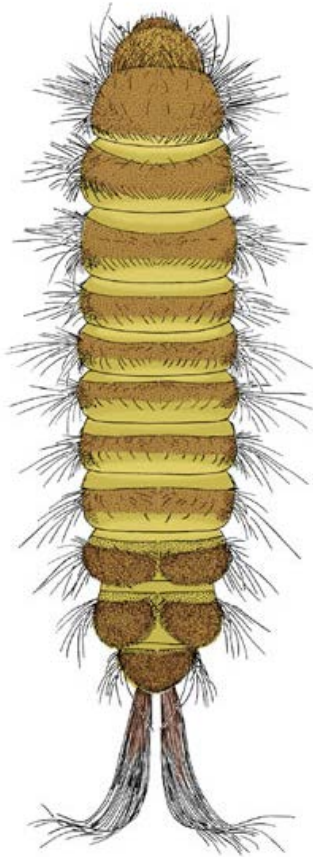
Attracted to lights and can fly

Life cycle 40-50 days

Commonly feed on any grain or animal protein, animal hair or skins, fish meats, dried milk, drugs, pasta, nuts, dried fruits and dead insects.

## Warehouse beetle (*Trogoderma variabile*) larva

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Images modified from USDA

hairy, cigar-shaped larva is typical of other species of dermestid beetles

Hastisetae on three terminal segments

*T. variabile* is a feeder on grains and grain products

efficient penetrator of food packaging

expert skill needed to distinguish from similar khapra beetle

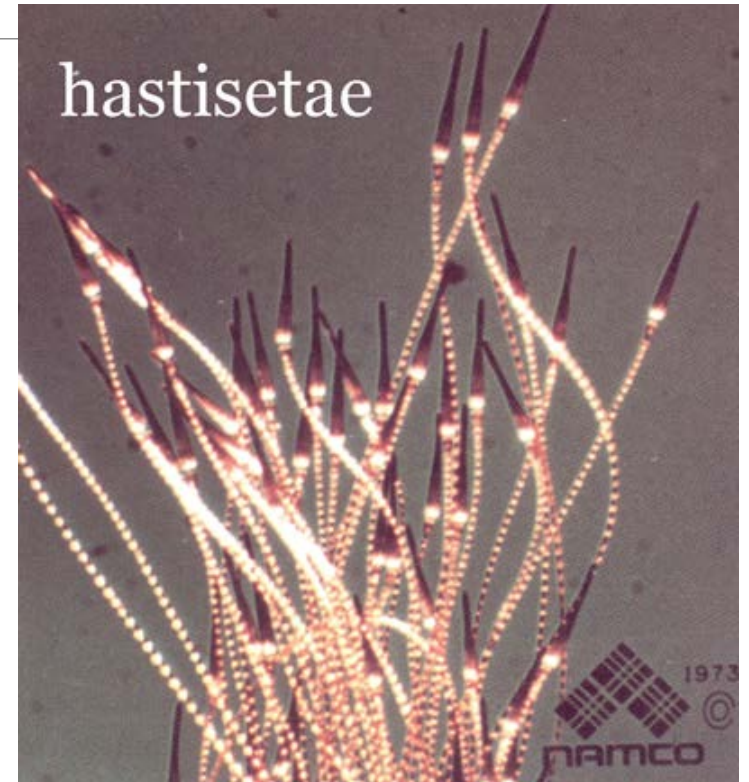
# Warehouse & Carpet Beetles

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both widely distributed

larvae of *Trogoderma* and *Anthrenus* carry hastisetae which can cause irritation of gastrointestinal tract

warehouse beetle principally feeds on grain, carpet beetles on animal protein



# Varied carpet beetle

*Anthrenus verbasci*

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small (3 mm), covered with colorful scales. Larva with hastisetae

larva feeds on variety of products containing animal proteins

- furs, feathers, hair, woolens, dead insects

common indoors and outdoors (bird nests)

Often mistaken for bed bugs



*External Feeder*

# Indian Meal Moth

*Plodia interpunctella*

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Wingspan 18 mm (3/4 inch), outer 1/2 to 1/3 of front wing is covered with reddish copper scales

Nocturnal, attracted to lights

Life cycle 25-135 days

Feed on grain and grain products, dried fruits, seeds, nuts, candy, dried red peppers, pet food

Silk often associated with infested foods

# INDIAN MEAL MOTH



973



WHITMIRE MICRO-GEN  
RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC.

# Indian meal moth larva/pupa



Noel Troxclair, Texas A&M AgrLife Extension



UGA1233164

Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org

*External Feeder*

# Mediterranean Flour Moth

*Ephestia (Anagasta) kuehniella*

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Mark Dreiling, Bugguide.net

Wingspan: 25 mm (1 inch)

Hind wings dirty white and forewings a pale gray with transverse black wavy bars

Attracted to lights

Life cycle 30-65 days



# Mediterranean Flour Moth

*Ephesia (Anagasta) kuehniella*

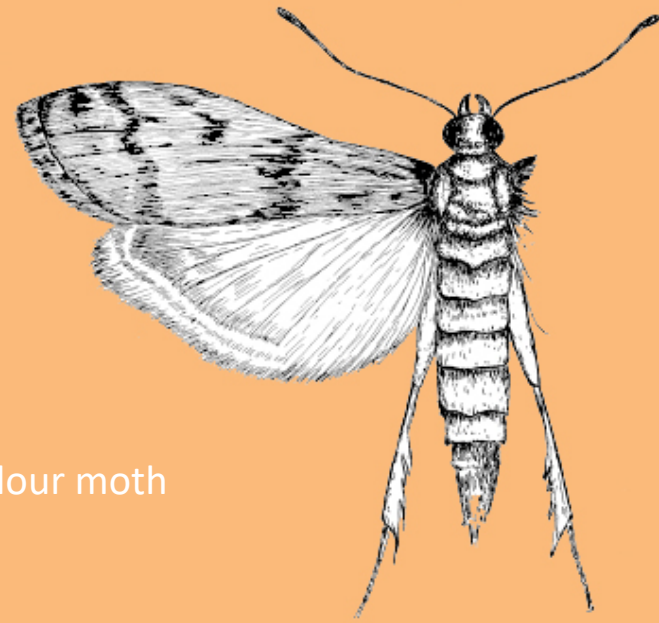
Larva spins silk over feeding substrate (like IMM)

Feeds on flour, meal. Also (less commonly) damaged grains

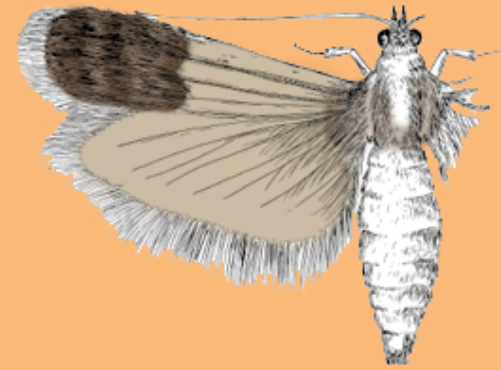
Common pest in flour mills



# Moth size comparison



Mediterranean flour moth



Indian meal moth



Angoumois grain moth

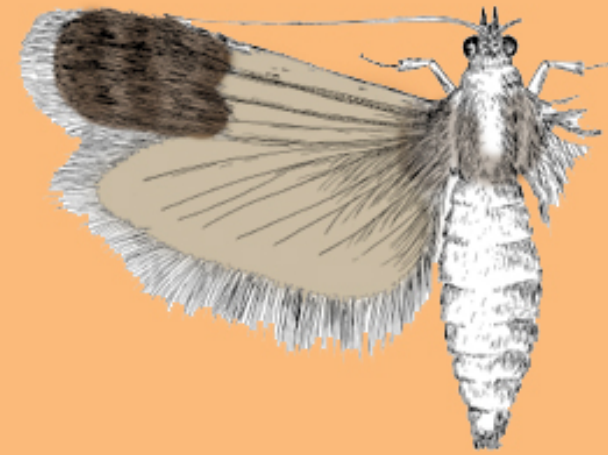
# Distinguishing clothes moths from flour, grain and meal moths

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Smaller than Angoumois grain moth  
(3/8-inch wingspan, 5 to 7 mm-long)

Rarely flies

Tuft of hair between eyes



Indian meal moth



Angoumois grain moth



Clothes moth

# Moth pheromones

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sex pheromones produced by females to attract males

available for many species

- Indian meal moth, almond moth, raisin moth, tobacco moth and Mediterranean flour moth (one pheromone)
- clothes moths (webbing and clothes)
- Angoumois meal moth
- others

useful in monitoring, some control

Warning: take care with placement. May attract outdoor insects inside



## Scavengers

# Sawtoothed grain beetle

*Orzaephilus surinamensis*

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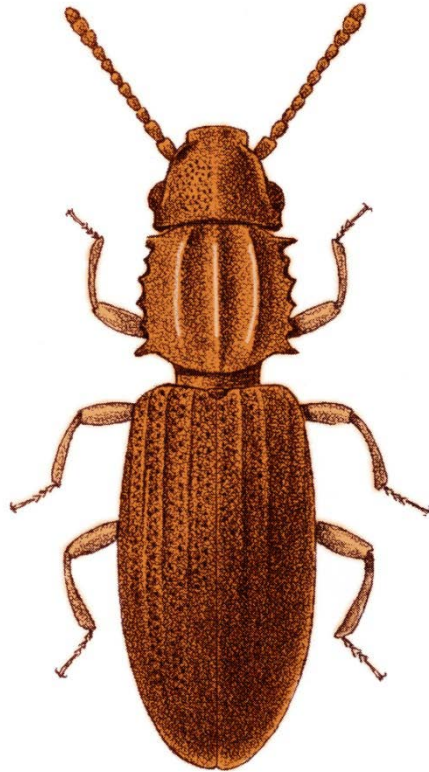


Image modified from USDA

2-3 mm, brown with flattened body

Six saw-like projections on side of thorax, not attracted to light

Cannot fly

Life cycle 30-50 days

Feeds on any grain or processed grain product including oats, pet foods, seeds, dried fruits, rice, grain meals, sugar, chocolate, drugs, pasta and tobacco

## Scavengers

# Red flour beetle

*Tribolium castaneum*

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*Tribolium castaneum* Peggy Greb, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

Adult 3.5 mm-long, reddish brown with antennae ending in a 3-segmented club

Attracted to lights and can fly (major difference between confused and red)

Life cycle 40-90 days

Feeds on flour, cereals, pet foods, whole grains infested by other stored product beetles

Warmer climates, more common in southern U.S.

## Scavengers

# Confused Flour beetle

*Tribolium confusum*



*Tribolium confusum* Natasha Wright, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org

3.5 mm

Reddish brown with antennae ending in a 4 segmented club

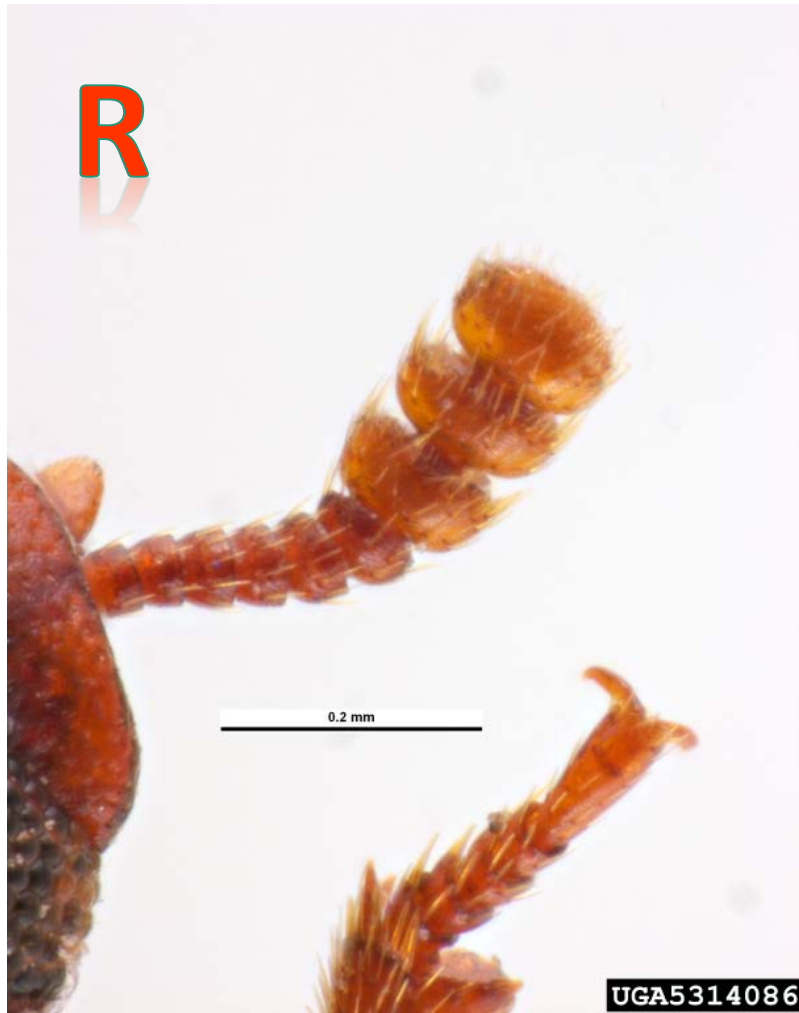
Cannot fly

Life cycle 40-90 days

Feed on flour, cereals, pet foods, whole grains infested by other stored product beetles

Cooler climates, more common in northern U.S.

## Red & confused flour beetle antennae



*Tribolium castaneum* Pest and Diseases Image Library,  
Bugwood.org



*Tribolium confusum* Pest and Diseases Image Library,  
Bugwood.org



## Distinguishing flour beetles and Lyctid powderpost beetles

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FB has distinct 3-segmented club, PPB has 2-segmented club

PPB has globular eyes, FB has wrap-around eyes

FB has enlarged hind coxae, PPB does not

PPB tarsal formula is 4-4-4, FB 5-5-4 (need microscope)



*Lyctus* sp. (left), *Tribolium castaneum* (right) Mike Merchant, Texas AgriLife Extension

## *Secondary Feeders*

# Spider beetles

*Family Anobiidae: subfamily Ptininae. Genera Gibbium, Mezium and Ptinus*

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Small, spider-like beetles

Tolerant of extreme conditions of temperature, desiccation

Do not fly

Scavengers on nuts and grains, animal skins, beans, bones, flour and meal, dried fruit, dead insects, rodent and bird excrement (dried), feathers, spices, many others.

## Secondary Feeders

# Yellow & dark mealworms

*Tenebrio molitor*, *Tenebrio obscurus*



Dark mealworm, *Tenebrio obscurus* Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org

13 mm (1/2-5/8 inch), shiny/dull dark brown or black (dark mealworm is dull and larvae are darker in color)

Larvae used as fish bait, pet food

Not attracted to lights

Cannot fly

Life cycle over 365 days

Infest moldy grain products

## *Secondary Feeders*

# Foreign grain beetle

*Ahasverus advena*

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Tiny, reddish-brown beetles (2 mm-long)

Clubbed antennae, notches in square pronotum

3 to 4-week generation time in warm conditions

Feeds on molds and mildews associated with grain products, new housing

# Key Elements of Control

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Education

Inspection & Identification

Exclusion

Landscaping

Lighting

Trapping & Monitoring

Sanitation

Rotation of goods

Physical control

Chemical control

# *Key elements of control*

## Physical Control

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Heat – 120 F for 60 minutes kills all insect life stages (120° to 150° for 24 hours for buildings; 120° F for 60-90 minutes for individual cereal packages)

Cold – 7-14 days in deep freeze (-4° F) will kill most insects, including hardest stored product pests

- for best results drop temperatures quickly
- reduce time by cooling, thawing, refreezing

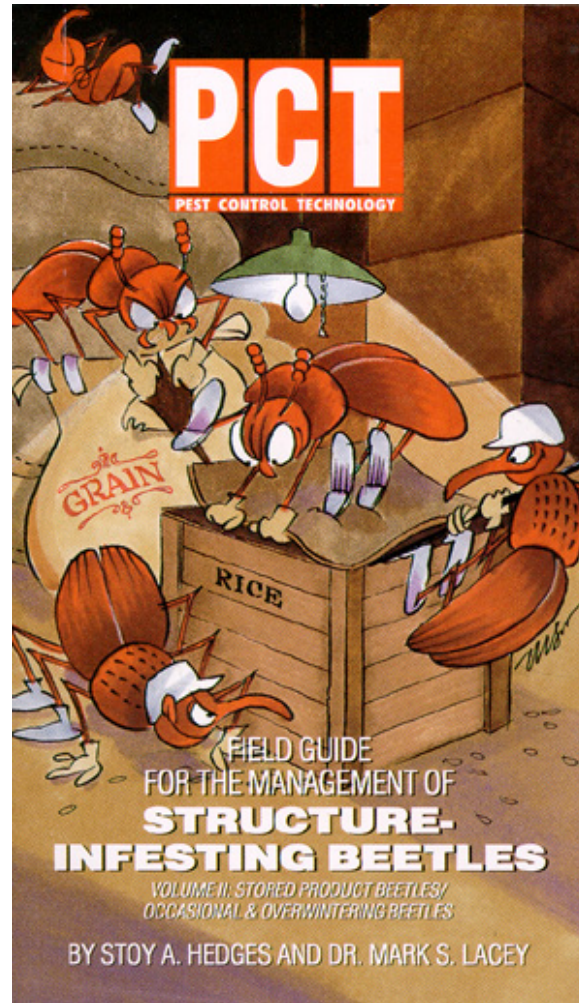
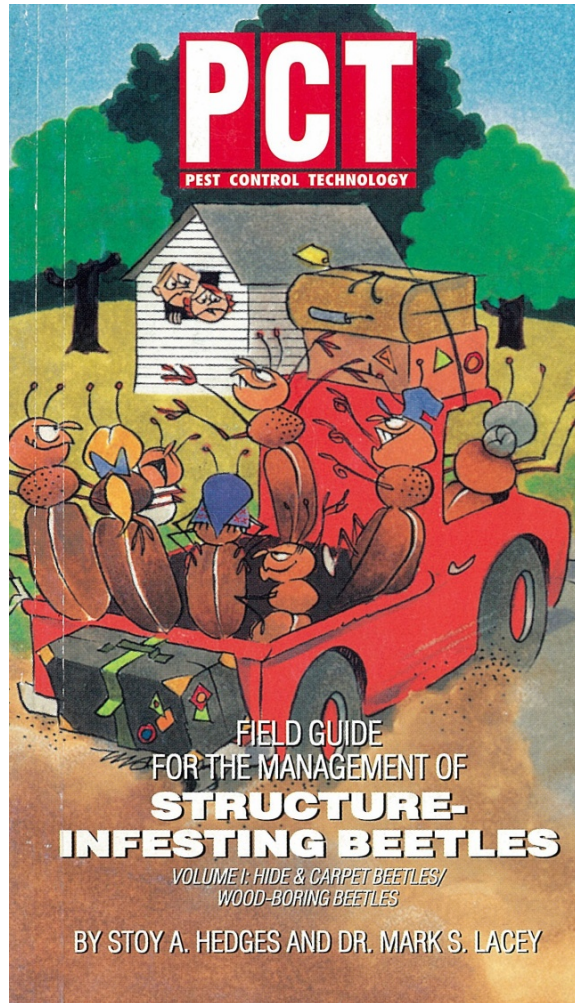


# Locating & disposing of infested material

- Pet food: bagged, spilled
- Organic fertilizers
- Potpourri, dried flowers
- Old rodent baits
- Improperly stored cigars/cigarettes
- Food products left in coats/clothes
- Bee, rodent, bird nests



*i wash...you DRY*



Good  
references

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# Which of the following is true of Indian meal moth, but not Angoumois grain moth?

Pheromone trap available

Nocturnal, attracted to  
lights

Secondary pest of grains

Silk often associated  
with infested foods



**Which of the following beetle larvae is about ½ inch (12 mm) long, banded in appearance, hairy and has two small hooks on the end of the body?**

Hide beetle (*Dermestes* sp.)

Foreign grain beetle (*Ahasverus advena*)

Cigarette beetle (*Lasioderma serricorne*)

Red flour beetle (*Tribolium castaneum*)



# Which of the following beetles have adults with clubbed antennae?

Warehouse beetle  
(*Trogoderma variabile*)

Confused flour beetle  
(*Tribolium confusum*)

Drugstore beetle  
(*Stegobium paniceum*)

All of the above

# What type of metamorphosis do spider beetles have?

No metamorphosis

Gradual metamorphosis

Incomplete metamorphosis

Complete metamorphosis

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Questions?

