

Biscuit and Larder Beetle Control

Advice to Householders



Biscuit & Larder Beetle

Biscuit Beetle

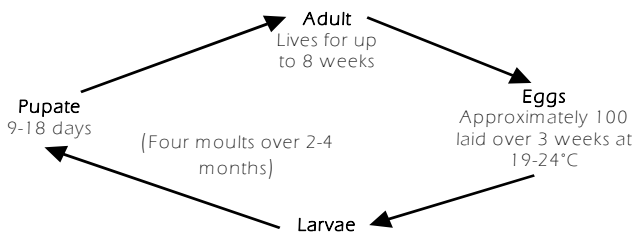
The biscuit beetle has hard leathery wings which meet along the mid line of the back. It has biting mouthparts, a well-developed thorax (the part of the body between the neck and the abdomen) and segmented antennae, which are segmented with a club, like tip. It is reddish brown in colour with a covering of short yellowish hairs and is 2-3.5mm long.

The biscuit beetle is a worldwide pest that is found in shops and domestic larders infesting a wide variety of dried vegetable matter. In a warm atmosphere there may be as many as four generations.

The biscuit beetle is a pest of cereal products such as flour, bread, breakfast cereals, spices, beverage concentrates and medicines. Infested products may cause the contamination of other products. Packaging may be damaged by larvae that can penetrate tinfoil and sheet lead. They may also attack books and manuscripts.

Food stores should be kept clean, well insulated, ventilated and damp proofed. Cracks and crevices which may provide harbourage for the beetles should be kept to a minimum. Food should be stored off the floor in suitable containers and rotated correctly. Any spillage of foodstuffs should be cleared up immediately and any infested foodstuffs should be disposed of upon discovery of the infestation.

Insecticides can be applied to the fabric of the building or food storage areas, concentrating on any areas that may provide harbourage. Before carrying out any insecticide treatment, it is essential to ensure that all foodstuffs remaining are



well protected to

Biscuit & Larder Beetle

Larder Beetle

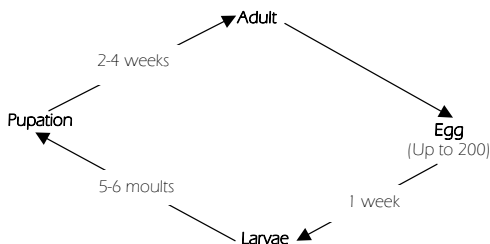
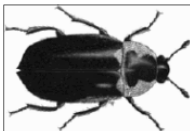
The forewings of the larder beetle are hard and leathery meeting along the centre of the back. It has biting mouthparts and a well-developed thorax (part of the body between the head and the abdomen). Larder beetles belong to the Dermetidae family, which means skin feeders.

These beetles are common where animal products are handled e.g. hide, skin, bone, dried meat, fishmeal and dog biscuit manufacturing premises. Where infestations occur in domestic premises, they are often encountered in larders and food storage areas, hence their collective name. They can also be found feeding on dead rodents or birds in attics or under floor spaces. These beetles play only a minute role in the transmission of disease, although they may act as carriers of anthrax. They will breed on any animal protein and can be a serious pest in hide warehouses, tanneries, milk processing plants and other premises where animal products are processed. Damage is mainly caused by the larvae, which bore holes in materials, either as they feed or as they pupate. The soft sapwood of wooden structures are preferred pupation sites, however they will also excavate plaster, lead and tin. The adult beetles may cause similar damage.

The first step in control is to trace the source of the infestation. This is usually obvious in commercial premises although it can be more obscure in domestic premises and can often be associated with dead rodents or old birds' nests.

All sources of the infestation should be removed and where possible burnt. Routine surveillance, good housekeeping and thorough cleaning are essential factors in controlling any infestation. Insecticidal control can be done with the use of insecticidal spray treatments of surfaces, but it is imperative that any used do have a

sprays residual activity.



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Other information leaflets available:

- ▶ Carpet, Museum & Fur Beetle Control
- ▶ Furniture Beetle (Woodworm) & Wharf Borer Control
- ▶ Cockroach Control
- ▶ Spider Beetle Control
- ▶ Housefly Control
- ▶ Flea Control
- ▶ Black Ant Control
- ▶ Silverfish, Earwig, woodlouse & Slug Control
- ▶ Psocid (Booklouse) Control
- ▶ Seagull Control
- ▶ Pest Control Advice

Customer Services

Babergh District Council
Corks Lane, Hadleigh
Ipswich IP7 6SJ

Tel: (01473) 826622

Minicom: 01473 825878



www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/pests

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