

PEST CONTROL SERIES

Biscuit Beetle *Stegobium paniceum*

This small beetle, which has become adapted to a diet of starch containing foods, is usually found in kitchens, food storage areas and commonly in dry pet food. It is of the same family as the furniture beetle [wood worm] and the familiar boreholes found in old wood can often be found in food packaging. The adult beetles are good flyers and are attracted to light so they may also be found around window frames.

The insect doesn't bite and is not a known vector of disease but it can cause a lot of damage to food especially within the food industry.

Control or eradication of this insect pest in the home shouldn't present too many problems. The first task is to trace the source of the infestation; checking all food stuffs especially cereal products does this. Look out for packets that have been left at the back of the cupboard and forgotten or slipped behind out of sight and lost. Also bulk bags of pet food where slow usage allows the insect to develop. Should you locate the source, dispose of it straight away

The next step is to clean the cupboards thoroughly using a mild bleach solution paying particular attention to any small cracks and crevices where the insects might hide.