

A Bug's Life

Booklice/Psocids

Order: Psocodea

Fun facts

- Booklice are not true lice, harmless to humans & pets
- Nuisance indoor pests, which may occur in very large numbers
- Found in areas of high humidity
- Feed on molds and starches like book bindings and wallpaper
- May contaminate food products such as moist grains and cereals
- Resemble miniature termite workers

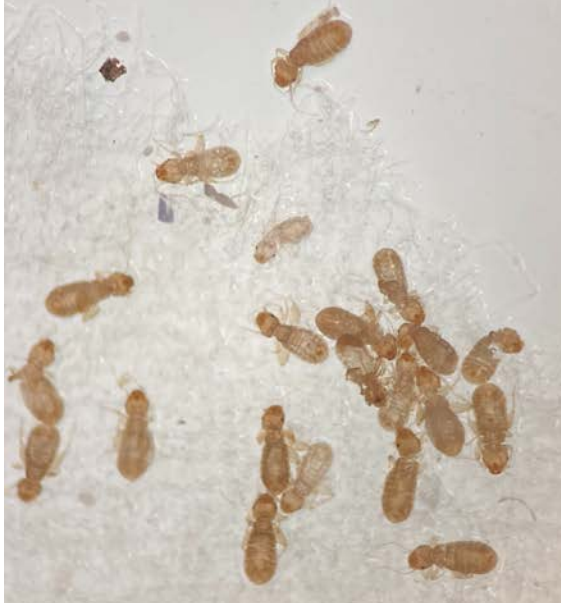
Identification

Habitat: Damp areas with high humidity such as crawl spaces, basements, potted plants, windowsills, storage areas, etc.

Psocids: <1/16" inch long, wingless, soft-bodied, gray or light brown, large head, narrow thorax, large abdomen (look like a light bulb), threadlike antennae, enlarged lip (clypeus) on the front of face

Management

- Discard infested food products
- Store food in airtight containers
- Reduce relative humidity to less than 50% by using dehumidifier
- Increase air flow and ventilation
- Adjust environmental conditions where paper and books are stored
- Pesticides are not needed if the environment can be made less favorable



Photos: J. Green