

A Bug's Life

Sawtoothed grain beetle

Family: Silvanidae

Sawtoothed grain beetle - *Oryzaephilus surinamensis*; Merchant grain beetle - *Oryzaephilus mercator*

Fun facts

- Larvae and adult beetles are pests of stored grain products
- Sawtoothed grain beetles (STGB) can survive winters in unheated structures
- Merchant grain beetles (MGB) are adapted to warmer climates, attracted to light, and are able to fly

Products

- Wide variety of foodstuffs: flours, meals, cereals, bread, macaroni, dried fruits and meats, nuts, spices, chocolate, etc.

Identification

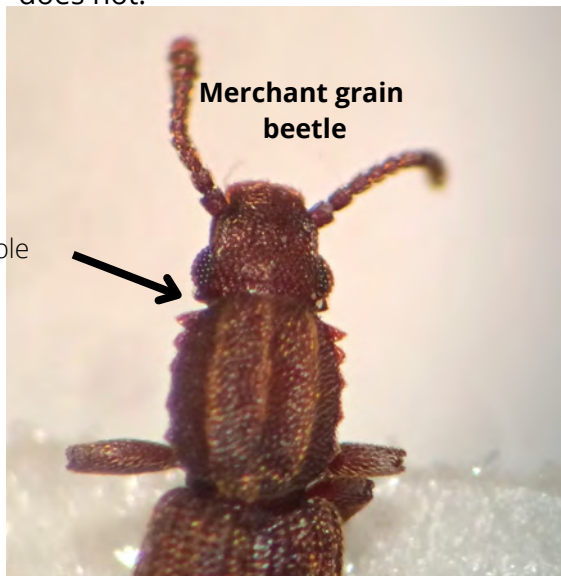
Damage: Contaminate food products shed exoskeletons and filth

Larvae: <1/8" long, yellowish-white, smooth body, no projections at the end of the body

Adults: 1/8" long, flattened bodies, triangular-shaped heads visible from top, 6 saw-like projections on sides of thorax. The sawtoothed grain beetle has a temple region that is larger than half the diameter of its eye; merchant grain beetle does not.

Management

- Inspect packages before purchase, look for rips in bags and insects
- Sweep up any spills right away
- Locate source of infestation, discard contaminated items in outdoor trash
- Check decorative arrangements with corn or seeds and items stuffed with dry beans (i.e. bean bags, heating pads)
- Store whole grain products (wild bird seed, squirrel corn) in airtight containers



Photos: J. Green