

# A Bug's Life Silverfish and Firebrat

Family: Lepismatidae

Common silverfish - *Lepisma saccharina*; Four-lined silverfish - *Ctenolepisma lineatum*; Firebrat - *Thermobia domestica*

## Fun facts

- Primitive, nocturnal, often hidden
- Found both indoors and outdoors
- Feed on carbohydrates and starchy materials like paste from wallpaper, bookbinding, fabrics, carpet, cereals
- Associated with cedar shake shingles
- Descend from attic through ceiling fixtures and often trapped in sinks and bathtubs
- Lifespan of 2-3 years

## Identification

Wingless, tapered and flattened body, long antennae, three long filaments extend from tip of abdomen

Damage: Occasionally small holes in fabric or paper artifacts

Preferred environment: Silverfish associated with high moisture and high relative humidity; Firebrats associated with higher temperatures (89-105°F) and dryer conditions

## Management

- Do not bite, seldom cause damage, more of a nuisance indoors
- Modify environment to be less attractive (i.e. fix moisture problem, use dehumidifier, increase ventilation, air-tight storage of items)
- Remove insects from ceilings, walls, and floors with vacuum
- For long-term infestations, consult with pest management company



Firebrat



Common silverfish



Four-lined silverfish

Photos: J. Green