

A Bug's Life

Fun facts

- Over 675 species in US and Canada
- May occur in enormous numbers
- Require high moisture to survive
- Not harmful to health or home, but considered a nuisance pest
- Many species occur outdoors in soil, fungi, decaying organic matter, wood mulch, leaf litter, swimming pools
- Enter through window screens, open doors, vent pipes, potted plants

Identification

Habitat: Attracted to areas of damp areas with high humidity where mildew odors are detectable; during times of hot, humid weather

Springtails: 1/32" to 1/8" long, wingless, soft-bodied, elongate body with long antennae, forked (springlike/furcula) appendage under abdomen allows them to jump

Springtails

Class: Collembola; Order: Entomobryomorpha

Management

- Vacuum and wipe down areas of high moisture like bathrooms, kitchens, crawlspaces, basements, laundry rooms and around windowsills
- Dry out site with dehumidifier/fans
- Do not overwater potted plants
- For excessive infestations where moisture cannot be managed, contact professional to treat outside surfaces (usually west/sunny side of building)



Springtails (magnified)



Springtails on a sticky trap

Photos: J. Green