

A Bug's Life Stored grain fungus beetle

Family: Mycetophagidae; *Litargus balteatus*

Fun facts

- Species of hairy fungus beetle
- Feed on fungi that grow on moldy grains fields or storage bins
- Attracted to light and are able to fly
- Sometimes found in newly constructed buildings in wall and attic voids
- Little is known about the life cycle
- Adult beetle is the only stage encountered



Identification

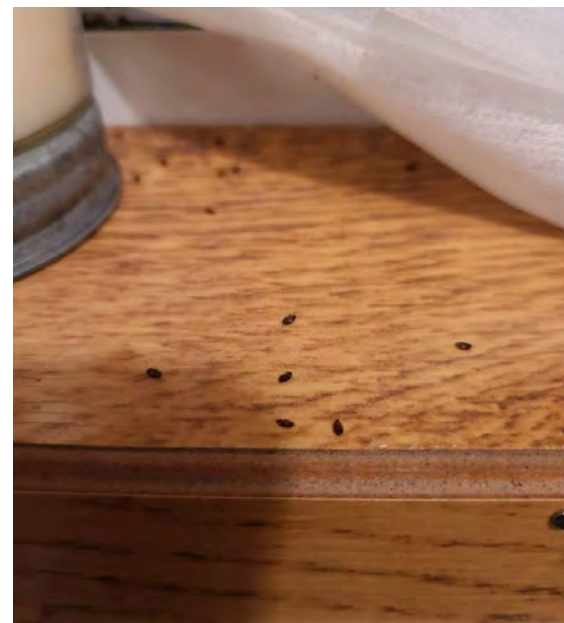
Damage: Does not damage stored grain, but presence indicates poor storage conditions and mold growth

Adult: 1/10" long, black with mottled brown pattern, oval-shaped body, fine hair on wing covers, antennae end in 3-segmented club



Management

- Keep doors and windows closed during times of harvest
- Light traps may help collect beetles that are already inside the building
- Remove from home with regular vacuuming and sanitation
- Well-managed grain will not be infested, which includes keeping moisture level less than 13-15%



Photos: J. Green