

Pest advice - Biscuit beetles

What do they look like?

Biscuit beetles are 2-3mm long and reddish brown in colour. They have finely ridged wing cases and a three-segmented clubbed antenna. Biscuit beetles are often confused with furniture beetles/woodworm.



Where do they live?

Biscuit beetles are found in shops and domestic larders infesting a wide variety of dried foodstuffs. They are also found in wild birds nests, where they will live on the droppings and debris that accumulate.

What do they eat?

Biscuit beetle larvae will feed on human foodstuffs such as flour, bread, breakfast cereals, biscuits and other cereal products as well as beverage concentrates and packet soup mixes. Adult beetles do not feed.

Pest status

They cause serious problems for the food industry due to its widespread occurrence and its ability to breach most forms of food packaging.

Control measures:

Hygiene

Any food commodities that are found to be infested with biscuit beetles should be discarded. Other sources of infestation such as birds nests and food residues should also be removed, and the area thoroughly cleaned.

Insecticide control

Heavy infestations in food shops and factories may require professional help. However, light infestations can be dealt with by the use of a crawling insect spray paying particular attention to cracks and crevices. Always follow label instructions when using pesticides.

Professional advice & treatment

Powys County Council does not undertake treatment for biscuit beetles. Commercial pest control companies are listed on the internet & in the Yellow Pages and Thompson's Local Directory.