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The cigarette (1) and drugstore (2) beetles are quite small, about 1/8 of an inch, and reddish brown in color with a rounded, oval shape. Their heads are tucked down so that they cannot be seen from above (thorax covers it). The larvae are grub-like, hairy and creamy color. Both of these insects are some of the most commonly encountered pantry pests. They will feed on a wide variety of foods including flours, dry mixes, dried fruits such as dates and raisins, cereals, cocoa, coffee beans, herbs, spices, nuts, rice, dry dog food as well as other products kept in kitchen cabinets and pantries. Both of these beetles can fly and are attracted to lights, so they may be found away from foods they are infesting.

Indian meal moth

Indian meal moths (3) are small moths (½ inch long) that have distinctive wing coloring, making them relatively easy to identify. The part of the wing closest to the body is whitish-gray while the rest of the wing is coppery colored with black stripes. Mature caterpillars (4) are also about ½ inch in length and range in color from dirty white to greenish and pinkish. As the caterpillars feed and travel around their food source they will leave a silken thread behind them, often forming webs across the surface of foods they are infesting. When caterpillars are ready to pupate they will leave their food source (often traveling a considerable distance), to find a suitable location, often where a wall or ceiling meet (or a similar location on shelving). Once there, they will often spin a loose cocoon and pupate inside (4).

Grain weevils

There are two types of grain weevils commonly encountered in homes, the rice weevil (5) and the granary weevil, both of which look quite similar to one another. Weevils can be differentiated from other beetles because of their "snouts" (their mouths are at the end). The granary is chestnut brown to black and does not fly, while the rice weevil is reddish brown to nearly black and has four light red to yellow spots on its back and will fly. Both beetles are quite small, approximately 1/8 inch. The larvae of these beetles are internal feeds so they will feed inside of items such as popcorn, birdseed, decorative Indian corn, and nuts.

Flour beetles

There are two species of flour beetles that are commonly encountered as pantry pests, the confused flour beetle and the red flour beetle (6). The red flour beetle gets its name because of its rust-red color. While the confused flour beetle gets its name because of the confusion over its identity because it is so similar looking to the red flour beetle. Both beetles are about 1/8 inch. They primarily infest flour but can also be found in cracked grains, cake mixes, beans, peas, dried fruits, nuts, chocolate, and spices. The red flour beetle can fly while the confused flour beetle cannot.

Sawtoothed grain beetle

Sawtoothed grain beetles (7) are small (1/10 inch) reddish brown beetles that are slender and flat. They get their names from the six tooth-like projections that are on either side of the thorax (body region behind the head) of adult beetles. Sawtoothed grain beetles feed on most grains (8) and cereal products as well as nuts, seeds, yeasts, dried meats, dried fruits, and candy.

Management

There are a variety of different steps that one can take to try and prevent pantry pest infestations:

- Buy dried foods in quantities small enough to be used up in a short period of time. Use oldest products before newer ones, and opened packages before unopened ones.
- Inspect packages or bulk products before buying. Packages should be sealed and unbroken.
- Store foods in tightly closed glass, metal, or heavy plastic containers. This prevents pantry pests from getting into food, as well preventing them from getting out of infested foods.
- Good sanitation. Keep food storage areas clean by not allowing crumbs or spilled food to accumulate. Remove and discard old, unused products and inspect the remainder. Thoroughly clean cracks and corners.

If pantry pests are found, there are several control strategies that can be done to eliminate the pests:

- Inspect all potential food sources. Many are attracted to lights and may be found away from the infested food product.
- Heavily infested items should be thrown away outdoors in a tightly sealed bag.
- If food products are not badly infested they can be thrown away, or they may be salvaged:
 - By freezing at 27°F or colder (colder the better) for at least 3-7 days (again, the longer the better).
 - Food can be heated at 140°F oven for an hour.
- Empty and thoroughly vacuum any areas holding infested items. Pay particular attention to cracks, crevices, and corners.
- Empty the vacuum cleaner or discard the vacuum cleaner bag after use to prevent reinfestation.
- The use of insecticides is not recommended. Control will only be temporary unless the infestation is eliminated.
 - If insecticides are used READ AND FOLLOW ALL LABEL DIRECTIONS!
 - If foods contact insecticides they must be thrown away!
 - Cupboards, containers, and dishes must be thoroughly washed and dried before being used again.

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