



## COMMAND PEST CONTROL

### Information sheet number 47 - Australian Spider Beetle



#### **Appearance:**

3 to 4mm, oval slightly bulbous body, waisted between the neck shield and abdomen, long legs, mid brown, overall appearance like a spider, body covered in velvety golden-brown hairs, long simple antennae which have 11 segments. Larvae grow to 5 to 7 mm and are yellowish-white with a yellowish-brown head, there is a small dark mark on the underside of the last body segment.

#### **Breeding:**

100-200 eggs laid singly, hatch after 7 to 10 days at 25°C, larvae develop over 40 to 50 days with 3 skin changes, pupation for 20 to 25 days in a cocoon, adult emerges after 3 weeks. Life cycle is 4 to 6 months. There are 2 or 3 generations per year. Adults can live up to a year.

#### **Food:**

legumes, seeds, grain, flour, herbs, cocoa, spices, fruit, nuts and milk powder, scavengers of dead insect remains.

#### **Where do Australian spider beetles live?**

Warehouses in spillages or badly rotated stock, flour silos in the dust on floors, dried- milk powder bagging plants and storage areas, dried soup manufacturers, cereal producers and the chocolate industry, will quickly migrate in a premises and is a very common pest in the food industry. This beetle is gregarious and may be found in numbers behind sacks or in a void or crack. Often seen in flour spillage in the bases of flour silos

#### **Damage:**

As a foreign body their presence can cause product rejection and possible litigation or an expensive recall.

**For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049**