



COMMAND PEST CONTROL

Pest information sheet 52. - Rust -red grain beetle or flat grain beetle



Appearance:

Adults of this species are oblong flattened small beetles (2-2.5 mm long), with the head and thorax relatively big and conspicuous. *Adult:* Very flattened, light brown, antennae hair-like and sometimes very long. It is 1.5 to 2.5 mm long.

Breeding

Eggs: The adult female may lay between 200 and 400 eggs, laid at random either loosely or in crevices. *Larva:* The larva has a brown head, biting mouthparts, and three pairs of legs. It is capable of moving freely through loosely packed commodities such as grain and flour. There are four larval stages or instars and all of these, particularly the first, succumb quickly in dry conditions.

Pupa: The fourth larval instar spins a cocoon which often has fragments of the food material incorporated into its outer surface. The pupal stage is formed within the cocoon. *Adult:* When the pupal stage is completed, the newly formed adult emerges by chewing through its cocoon. Long lived, surviving 6 to 9 months, feeds, flies, walks rapidly, able to enter packaged foods through very small cracks.

Food

The beetle is a widespread secondary pest of stored grains. It usually attacks the germs of broken or cracked grains thus reducing germination. The adult is one of the smallest beetles which infest stored cereals and cereal products

Where do Flat grain beetles live?

Warehouses, silos, mills, food processing factories and in stored grain / flour.

Damage:

They will infest stored food causing spoilage and often seen as a foreign body contaminant.

For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049