



## COMMAND PEST CONTROL

### Information sheet number 42b - Merchant Grain Beetle



#### **Appearance:**

2.5 to 3.5 mm, Dark rusty brown, long narrow flattened, 6 teeth on edges of prothorax, 3 ridges on centre of prothorax, antennae with club ends, almost identical to the Saw Toothed Grain Beetle (*O. surinamensis*), distinguished by the head and thorax shape and eye distance from head to thorax etc.

#### **Breeding:**

150 eggs laid loose in foodstuffs, they hatch in 7-10 days, The newly hatched larvae are 0.9 mm long. They are yellowish white with dark brown flecks and have a brown head. The larvae feed for 6-10 weeks, larvae moult 4 times, the larvae are 3mm when full grown. The cocoon is made up with food particles in which they pupate. Following pupation the adults hatch after 1-3 weeks, life cycle can be 9 weeks. The lowest temperature for breeding is 18°C. The beetle can live up to 3 years. Optimum conditions are 35°C and 90 % RH.

#### **Food:**

Primarily in seeds, nuts, processed foods, dried soups, commonly in dried fruit, chocolate products and sugar.

#### **Where do Merchant Grain Beetles live?**

Food processing factories and warehouses usually being imported from overseas in commodities. Found throughout Europe the Far and Middle East. Also common in the USA

#### **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**