

## Pest Profile



Photo credit: Bernd Thaller, Flickr

**Common Name:** Four-Lined Silverfish

**Scientific Name:** *Ctenolepisma lineata*

**Order and Family:** Zygentoma: Lepismatidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	0.8 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Oval and white.</li></ul>
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Similar in appearance to adults, but smaller.</li><li>● Scales develop in later molts (3th or 4th).</li></ul>
<b>Adult</b>	12.8 to 16 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Three pairs of abdominal styli.</li><li>● Alternative light and dark bands of scales dorsally.</li><li>● Long antennae (up to 16.5 mm)</li></ul>

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing.

**Host/s:** Four-lined silverfish feed on materials high in cellulose, including paper, cardboard, and wood. These silverfish are capable of digesting cellulose through their own enzymatic activity, independent of gut microbes. This species can be a pest of foods high in carbohydrate content. Outdoor populations are commonly found under the bark of *Eucalyptus* trees.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):**

Four-lined silverfish can damage books and other paper materials. Holes, etched siding and stains from scales and fecal matter can be found on damaged items. This species is primarily considered a nuisance pest.

## References:

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- Koehler, P. G., Branscome, D., Oi, F. M., & Bayer, B. E. (1993, April). Booklice and Silverfish. Retrieved from <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ig094>
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