

# Pest Profile



Photo credit: Bj.schoenmakers, Wikimedia

**Common Name:** Gray Silverfish

**Scientific Name:** *Ctenolepisma longicaudata*

**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 in color.</li></ul>
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Similar in appearance to the adults, but lacking setae in first instar and scales in instars 1 - 3.</li><li>● Genitalia lacking in instars 1 - 13, appearing in 14th instar.</li></ul>
<b>Adult</b>	19 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Teardropped shaped, with thorax widened.</li><li>● Scales uniformly gray.</li><li>● Two pairs of styli.</li><li>● Three long appendages on apex of abdomen.</li></ul>

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

**Host/s:** The gray silverfish contains cellulose digesting bacteria and enzymes in its midgut, allowing it to digest food containing cellulose. Typical sources of food include paper, glue in book bindings, museum collections, wheat flour, beef extracts, tissue paper, onion skins, artificial silk, linen, rayon, lisle, and cotton. They readily feed on proteins and carbohydrates from both plants and animals.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Damage can be identified by small, irregular holes or discoloration of paper.

**References:**

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