

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska--Lincoln

Common Name: House Cricket

Scientific Name: *Acheta domesticus* Linnaeus

Order and Family: Orthoptera: Gryllidae

Size and Appearance: The House Crickets is one of the most common “occasional invaders” homeowners in the United States see. Hence their namesake, they can survive indoors for their entire lifecycle. Adults are about 20 mm in length, light brown in color, have antennae longer than the body, wings flat on the back, and females have a long ovipositor at the base of the abdomen.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.1 mm	Females can lay 728 small, brown eggs deposited in crevices indoors or in soil outdoors.
Larva/Nymph	1-20 mm depending on instar	Nymphs look like adults but lack wings and ovipositors. 7-8 instars.
Adult	15-22 mm	Light brown coloration, long antennae, compound eyes, chewing mouthparts, tibia spines on legs, ovipositor on female abdomen.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host/s: *Acheta domesticus* feed on fabrics in indoor settings. Preferred textiles seem to be carpets, wool, cotton, silk, and viscose.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): The surface will appear “pulled on” or exhibit loose fibers or threads. If there is enough crickets present, entire pieces of fabric can be eaten. Fecal stains can also damage textiles. Males sing to court females, which is considered of high nuisance to homeowners.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Occasional Invaders- House Cricket. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (7.12.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Walker, T.J. (2014). House Cricket. University of Florida Agricultural Extension Service. Retrieved on July 2nd, 2016 from <http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/crickets/adomest.html>