

# Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** By Sarefo (Own work) [GFDL (<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>) or CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

**Common Name:** Merchant Grain Beetle

**Scientific Name:** *Oryzaephilus mercator* (Fauvel)

**Order and Family:** Coleoptera: Cucujidae

**Size and Appearance:** Adults are about 3 mm long with flattened body appearance. They generally are dark brown in color and unique in having 5 saw-like teeth on each side of their thorax. The larva are yellowish white and smooth.

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1 mm in length	Females lay 22-180 shiny white eggs in food material crevices.
Larva/Nymph	1 mm- 3 mm in length depending on instar	3 larval instars
Adult	3.0-mm long	Dark brown in color with unique saw-tooth teeth on prothorax.
Pupa (if applicable)	3.2 mm long	Made of food particles held together by saliva.

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

**Host food product/s:** *Oryzaephilus mercator* prefers oilseed products over grains. It has been found on oats, nuts, cookies, macaroni, cake and brownie mix, and rice flour.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Merchant Grain Beetles are a problem pest worldwide. The products they feed on are left unfit for human consumption and make the beetles economically important pests.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Stored Product Pests- Merchant Grain Beetle. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (9.8.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Dill, J.F., Kirby, C.A (2016). Grain Beetles. University of Maine Cooperative Extension: Insect Pests, Ticks, and Plant Diseases. Retrieved July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from <https://extension.umaine.edu/ipm/ipddl/publications/5034e/>