

Pest Profile



Photo credit: By Jim Kalish, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Common Name: Sawtoothed Grain Beetle

Scientific Name: *Oryzaephilus surinamensis* (Linnaeus)

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Silvanidae

Size and Appearance: Adults are about 2.5-3 mm in length with a dark brown, flattened body. Their namesake comes from 6 saw-like teeth present on each side of the prothorax. The larvae of this species are a pale yellow, 3 mm long, and smooth in appearance.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1 mm in length	Shiny white eggs are deposited in crevices of food material. Females generally lay 45-265 in their lifetime.
Larva/Nymph	1-3 mm in length depending on instar	Light yellow/white with a smooth appearance. 3 instars.
Adult	2.5-3 mm long	Red/brown in color, flattened body, 6 saw-like teeth on side of prothorax.
Pupa (if applicable)	3 mm long	Mature larvae will create pupae from food materials and other debris. Pupation occurs usually in the debris of food product.

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

Host food product/s: *Oryzaephilus surinamensis* feeds on unsound kernels of many variety of grains.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Sawtoothed beetles use unique body shape to squeeze into cracks in grains and in food packaging. Dry weight and quality of the products attacked are compromised by beetle feeding. Infested product is often rejected at shipping terminals and by the food industry.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Stored Product Pests- Sawtoothed Grain Beetle. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (9.11.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Calvin, D., Jacobs, S. (1990). Sawtoothed and Merchant Grain Beetle. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Entomology. Retrieved July 16th, 2016 from <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/sawtoothed-and-merchant-grain-beetle>