

Pest Profile



Photo credit: by Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska

Common Name: Yellow Mealworm Beetle

Scientific Name: *Tenebrio molitor*

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae

Size and Appearance: Noted as one of the larger stored product pests, the yellow mealworm beetle is named for the distinct segmented yellow larvae often seen in stored food products. Adults are black or dark brown in color and roughly 13mm in length. The thorax features fine pits or puncture-like indentions and grooved wing covers. Yellow Mealworm beetles have fully functional wings and are often seen flying around light sources. The larvae are yellow, segmented, and resemble wireworms in appearance and size.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.05 mm in length	White, bean-shaped, 270+ eggs laid on stored flour, meal or grain waste. Have a sticky glue-like substance to hold them in place.
Larva/Nymph	0.5-15 mm in length depending on instar	Larvae emerge white and quickly turn yellow. About 15 mm long when fully developed and have segmented appearance.
Adult	13-15 mm in length	Black, large, pits on thorax, fully functioning wings.
Pupa (if applicable)	17 mm long	Pupal case formed in stored grain waste from skin of last instar.

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

Host /stored food products: *Tenebrio molitor* consume and reproduce in wastes of most stored grain products.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): While adults are mostly just external grain feeders and easy to remove from material, the larvae can bore into whole grains. This can reduce the weight and therefore the value of the grain, and generate a loss of profits as a result.

References:

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