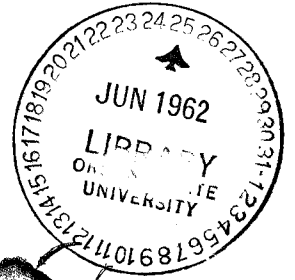
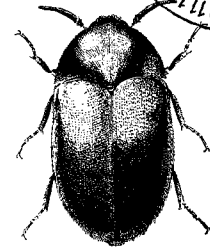
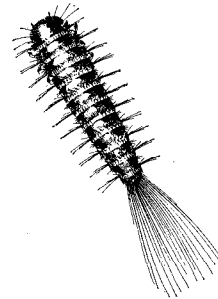


# Insect Pests of Home-Stored Foods

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Insects may occasionally be found in home-stored foods, particularly in those food products which have been on shelves for a long time. Most susceptible to infestation are the coarse-ground cereals, dried fruits, and nuts. Some insects may be found in spices or in whole-grain cereals such as rice.



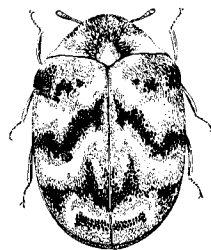
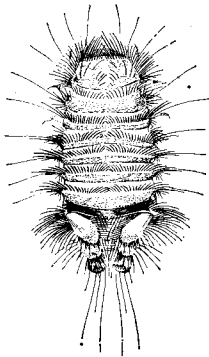
**BLACK CARPET BEETLE**  
(Left, larva; right, adult)

## Dermestid Beetles

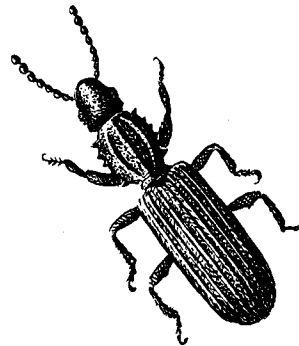
This group of beetles, also known as larder or carpet beetles, feeds on cereal products and materials of animal origin. These insects are the most difficult of all pests of home-stored foods to control. If found on food shelves, other parts of the home should be examined for their presence. Infestations are frequently found in an old sack of cloth remnants, old woolen sweaters, or other items of clothing containing wool, fur, or feathers. It is not unusual to find them behind baseboards, mouldings, and radiators or in air ducts and other places where lint occurs. The larvae are about three-eighth inch long, brown or reddish-brown, with relatively long body hairs giving them a bristly appearance.

## Bran Bugs

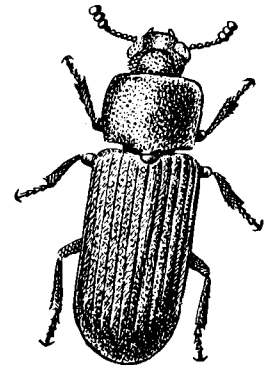
The saw-toothed grain beetle and red flour beetle are common pests of cereal products. They are brown or reddish-brown insects about one-eighth inch long, and are most likely to be found in the coarse-ground cereals. Occasionally they will be found in flour, dried milk, nuts, dried fruits, and pet foods.



**VARIED CARPET BEETLE**  
(Left, larva; right, adult)



**SAWTOOTH GRAIN BEETLE**



**RED FLOUR BEETLE**



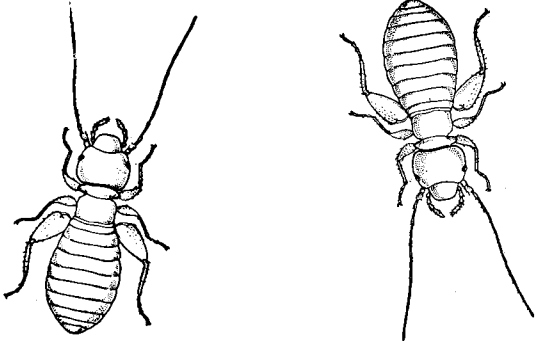
This is one of a series of *Fact Sheets* reporting Cooperating Extension work in agriculture and home economics, F. E. Price, director. Printed and distributed in furtherance of Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Oregon State University, Oregon counties, and U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

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## Psocids

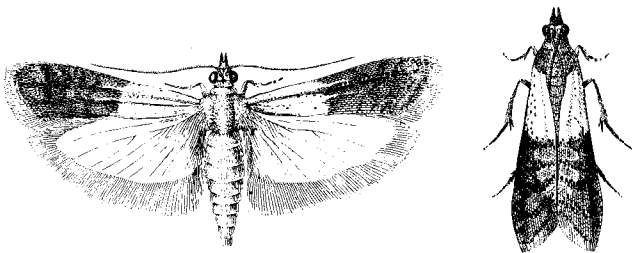
Psocids (sometimes referred to as booklice) are tiny, light-colored, wingless insects about one twenty-fifth inch long. They may be found anywhere on food shelves, but heavy infestations most frequently occur in seldom used whole-grain cereals such as rice.



CEREAL PSOCIDS

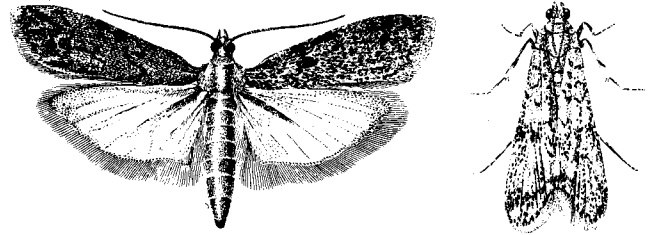
## Indian Meal Moth and Mediterranean Flour Moth

Medium-sized moths, gray or reddish-brown in color, flying in the home are often the first indication of these pests. The larvae of both species when full grown are about one-half inch long, dirty white or sometimes pinkish or greenish in color. The larvae feed



INDIAN MEAL MOTH

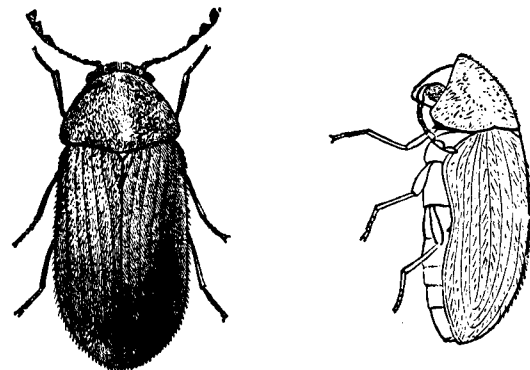
on a wide variety of foodstuffs including nuts, dried fruits, cereal products, and chocolate. They often spin webbing in the materials they infest, which distinguishes their damage from that of other food pests.



MEDITERRANEAN FLOUR MOTH

## Drugstore Beetle

This insect is light brown in color and about one-tenth inch long. It is a general feeder attacking practically any of the foods found on shelves. It is not unusual for heavy infestations to be present in spices such as red pepper or paprika.



DRUGSTORE BEETLES

## CONTROL

The first step in control is to locate and destroy the source of infestation. Food shelves should then be thoroughly cleaned. Attachments used with some types of vacuum cleaners are very useful in removing food particles that may have become lodged in cracks. Usually, thorough cleaning is the only control needed. Under some circumstances, this kind of cleaning may not be possible, and an insecticide can be used to advantage. Use one of the pressurized sprays designed for household insect control. Treat cracks and corners of shelves, after removing all dishes and foodstuffs. Do not contaminate food or dishes with insecticides.

Food products which are infrequently used and susceptible to infestation should be stored in containers having lids which can be tightly sealed. Wipe up food spills as soon as they occur and keep food storage units dry and free of food particles.

If dermestid beetles are a problem, cleaning must be particularly thorough. Clean under and around shelves, drawers, and storage bins. If the insect is found in other parts of the home, ask your county Extension agent for publications giving full information on control of carpet beetles.