

Stored Product Pests

Department of Entomology

HAIRY FUNGUS BEETLE *Typhaea stercorea* (L.)

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DESCRIPTION

Adults are oblong-oval insects that are brown in color with black eyes. They are 2-3 mm long (1/10") and covered with short, stout, moderately dense hairs. Hairs on the wing covers are arranged in rows, giving the appearance of lines running lengthwise. They have slender antennae with the last three segments enlarged. Adults are capable of flight.

Mature larvae are whitish to pale brown, 4-4.5 mm (1/6 in.) long. Darker projections at the tip of the abdomen are similar to those found on flour beetle larvae.



Hairy fungus beetle. (Photo Credit: John Obermeyer)

BIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR

Hairy fungus beetles may be found indoors or outdoors in places where grains or other food products are stored under conditions favorable for mold to grow. This insect serves as an indicator that grains or other foods are too damp for safe storage and may be going out of condition. Adults may fly or crawl into railcars or food processing plants from moist moldy residues nearby.

FOOD

This species occurs on a wide variety of foodstuffs, including grains and cereal products. It is a scavenger that feeds primarily on molds. Hairy fungus beetles have been reared on pure cultures of certain molds commonly found in grains and are considered a good indicator of damp storage conditions.

CONTROL

Although residual pesticides have the ability to kill these insects, their effectiveness will be decreased due to the moist environmental conditions. The best control strategy is regular sanitation to reduce the availability of moist organic matter, good airflow to reduce moisture build up, and regular inspection for water leaks. This will significantly reduce your risk for severe infestations.

READ AND FOLLOW ALL LABEL INSTRUCTIONS. THIS INCLUDES DIRECTIONS FOR USE, PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS (HAZARDS TO HUMANS, DOMESTIC ANIMALS, AND ENDANGERED SPECIES), ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS, RATES OF APPLICATION, NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS, REENTRY INTERVALS, HARVEST RESTRICTIONS, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL, AND ANY SPECIFIC WARNINGS AND/OR PRECAUTIONS FOR SAFE HANDLING OF THE PESTICIDE.

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