

Biscuit Beetle Guidance

What do they look like?

The biscuit beetle has hard leathery wings which meet along the mid line of the back. It has biting mouthparts, a well-developed thorax (the part of the body between the neck and the abdomen) and segmented antennae with a club like tip. It is reddish brown in colour with a covering of short yellowish hairs and is 2-3.5mm long.

Where do they live?

The biscuit beetle is found world-wide and is common throughout the UK. It can be found anywhere foodstuffs are stored.

What do they eat?

Biscuit beetles are well known for feeding on flour, bread, breakfast cereals, spices, biscuits, dog biscuits and packet soups amongst other things.

Pest Status

The biscuit beetle contaminates many food products and is classed as a nuisance pest. The larvae can damage packaging as it can even penetrate tin foil and sheet lead. They may also damage books and paper documents.

Control

The source of the infestation should be traced, cleaned thoroughly and treated with a crawling insect contact insecticide powder that should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.