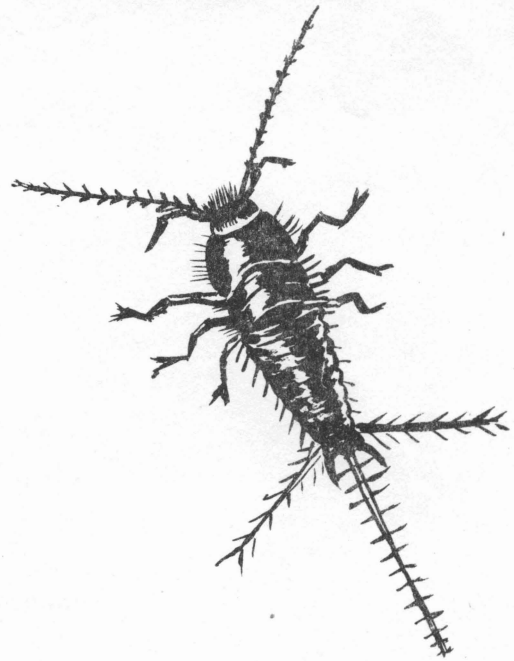


SILVERFISH

By

A. C. Gunter and J. A. Deer, Extension Entomologists
Texas A. and M. College System



Life History and Habits

Silverfish are small, wingless, silver-colored insects, approximately one-half inch long when full grown. The body tapers evenly from head to tail, and is covered with thin scales which give it a silvery shiny appearance. There are two long feelers on the head and three similar appendages at the tail, each nearly as long as the body. These pests are primitive insects. The young look just like the adults except in size. The females lay about a dozen eggs, which hatch under favorable conditions in six to ten days. Three months to two years later the young reach the adult stage and the life cycle is repeated. Silverfish have been known to live over 300 days without food, which accounts for the large numbers that appear in buildings.

The preferred food of this pest is vegetable matter high in carbohydrates, such as flour and oatmeal. Most damage, however, is done by their attacks on wall paper, card files, book bindings, rayon fabrics, starched clothing, and stocks of paper on which paste or glue has been used as a sizing. The silverfish prefers damp places and is less abundant in upper stories of houses. The firebrat, which

is closely related to the silverfish, can be distinguished by its mottled appearance with patches of whitish and blackish scales and is most abundant in attics, around furnaces and steam pipes.

Control

Spray walls or surfaces over which silverfish crawl with a five per cent DDT or a two per cent chlordane household spray. A five per cent dust of either of these materials may be used if desired. The same materials should be used to spray or dust infested basements and storage rooms. Attics should be thoroughly dusted either with five per cent DDT or five per cent chlordane. In such places as furnace rooms or around any open flames, the dust should be used instead of the spray to prevent fire hazards.

One-half ounce of sodium fluoride added to each pint of wallpaper paste will prevent silverfish from subsequently eating holes in the paper.

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