

Insect Pests found in Historic Houses and Museums

Many insects are found in buildings and it is important to distinguish between those which are not pests and those that cause damage to objects or the building structure.

A selection of the insects most commonly found in museums and historic houses in the UK are shown on this poster. Most damage is caused by immature insects, either nymphs (silverfish, booklice and woodlice) or larvae (beetles and moths).

The illustrations are magnified and are much larger than life. The white symbol on each picture shows the actual body size of the insects.

For further information on insect identification and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) go to www.collectionslink.org.uk

Trust

Moths

Webbing clothes moth Tineola bisselliella



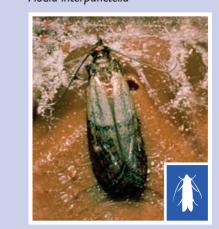
Larvae eat wool, fur, feathers, silk and skins.

Case-bearing clothes moth Tinea pellionella



Larvae eat wool, fur, feathers, silk and skins.

Indian meal moth Plodia interpunctella



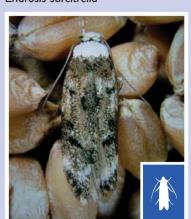
Larvae eat dried food such as cereals and nuts.

Brown house moth Hofmannophila pseudospretella



Larvae sometimes attack damp wool, fur, feathers and skins.

White-shouldered house moth Endrosis sarcitrella



Larvae sometimes attack damp wool, fur, feathers and skins.



Other pests

Silverfish Lepisma saccharina



Nymphs and adults eat the surface of damp paper, books and textiles.

Common booklouse Liposcelis bostrychophila



Nymphs and adults eat the surface of damp paper and books.

Non-pest beetles

Woodlice



They only attack rotting wood and vegetation.

Pest beetles

Death watch beetle Xestobium rufovillosum



Larvae attack oak hardwood which has been damp.

Furniture beetle/ woodworm Anobium punctatum



Larvae attack sapwood of many hardwoods such as oak and ash.

Wood weevils Pentarthrum huttoni and Euophryum confine



Larvae only attack really



Biscuit beetle Australian spider or drugstore beetle beetle Stegobium paniceum Ptinus tectus



Larvae eat dried food, plant material and freeze dried animals.



Larvae eat dried food and plant material.

Brown carpet beetle or Vodka beetle Attagenus smirnovi



Niptus hololeucus



Larvae eat wool, fur, feathers, silk and skins.

Golden spider beetle



Larvae eat dried food and plant material.

Two-spot carpet beetle Larder beetle Attagenus pellio Dermestes lardarius





Larvae eat wool, fur, feathers, silk and skins.



Cigarette beetle

Larvae eat dried food, plant material and freeze-dried animals.

Harlequin ladybird Harmonia axyridis



Invade to hibernate indoors

over winter.

Black ground beetles Mealworm beetle

Carabidae



Mainly predators, invading Larvae live in bird nests and old cereals. from outside.

Fungus beetles and plaster beetles Mycetophagidae & Lathridiidae



Larvae eat mould and are indicators of damp conditions.

Guernsey carpet beetle Anthrenus sarnicus



Larvae eat wool, fur, feathers, silk and skins.

Anthrenus verbasci

Varied carpet beetle



Larvae eat wool, fur, feathers, silk and skins.