

ROVE BEETLE



Photo Credit: David Evans

BASIC INFORMATION

Rove beetles are fast moving, long, narrow-bodied beetles, with short elytra and visible abdomen segments which are often hairy. They look somewhat like an earwig without the pincers. They can be up to $\frac{3}{4}$ " long and are normally found in the ground, under leaf litter and stones, as well as in ant nests. These insects attack other insects such as aphids and ants, grubs, and root maggots in the soil. Rove beetles are unusual in that their elytra are short and do not cover the entire abdomen. Because of this, they are able to fold their long wings intricately under these short elytra but surprisingly can fly quite well.

CONTROL

For control outdoors, you can use a properly labelled product containing permethrin or others registered to control beetles, but normally they do not cause a problem and are considered a beneficial insect. If they do end up indoors, simple removal by way of a vacuum will work as there normally are only one or two. If an infestation does occur, the use of a properly labelled residual insecticide along all baseboards, cracks, and crevices will take care of this problem.