

## SAW-TOOTHED GRAIN BEETLE



*Photo Credit: Sarefo*

### DESCRIPTION

Small, slender, dark brown insects about 1/8" long. Six saw-like "teeth" are found on either side of their pronotum (segment behind the head). Larvae are yellow-white and about 1/8-inch long.

### BIOLOGY

Females deposit 45-285 white eggs over a four to five-month period in the cracks or crevices on the food they are infesting. They molt 2-4 times and their life cycle (egg to adult) usually requires 30-50 days. There can be 6-7 generations per year. Adults usually live 6-10 months but can live up to 3 years, depending on environmental conditions.

### HABITS

Feed on stored products such as flour, bread, cereal, macaroni, dried fruit, nuts, dried meat, sugar, dog food, biscuits etc. Adults are not known to fly and are not attracted to light.

### CONTROL

- Find, remove and destroy all infested materials and/or food sources.
- Vacuum entire storage area thoroughly to remove food materials from cracks and crevices.
- Infested stored products can be sterilized with heat (52°C for one hour) or cold (-20°C for over 24 hours).
- Treat cracks, crevices, openings, etc. with properly labelled residual insecticide sprays or dusts.
- Heavily infested materials may need to be fumigated to achieve full control.