

Sawtoothed and Merchant Grain Beetles



Sawtoothed grain beetle adults and larvae (Clemson University/IPM Images)



Sawtoothed grain beetle (Gary Alpert/IPM Images)



Sawtoothed grain beetle, damage (Clemson University/IPM Images)

Typical Location When Observed: In the home, infesting any of a variety of dry foods. The sawtoothed grain beetle prefers grains and grain products, while the merchant grain beetle is more likely to be found in oil seeds and processed cereal grains.

Importance/Damage: These beetles are very common in dry, home-stored foods. The food can be ruined if the infestation is allowed to continue.

Distinguishing Features: Both of these small (1/10 inch) beetles have a row of six projections along the edge of the thorax, just behind the head. The shape of the head and the position of the eyes can be used to tell sawtoothed grain beetle from merchant grain beetle.

Look-Alikes: Flour beetles, flat grain beetle, rusty grain beetle.

General Life History and Habits: Eggs are laid in or on dried foods. Adults and larvae feed on broken bits of grain and processed foods. The adults live several months to several years.

Resources: For more information see Extension Fact Sheet 5.501, *Insect Pests of Home-stored Foods*, and Extension Bulletin 557A, *Household Insects of the Rocky Mountain States*.

Scientific Name: *Oryzaephilus surinamensis* and *O. mercator*

Order: Coleoptera (beetles)

Family: Silvanidae (flat bark beetles)

Actual Length

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