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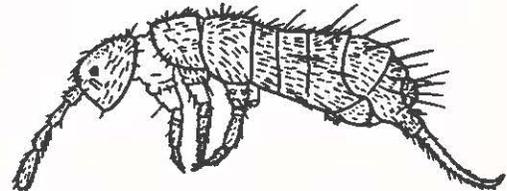
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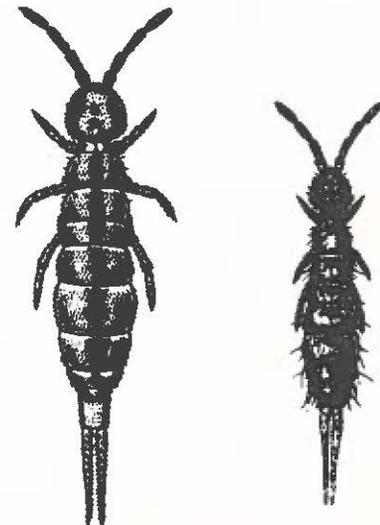
INSECT NOTES

SPRINGTAILS--LOTS OF THEM!

For some reason the summer of 1988 has been very good for springtails! There have been several reports of small to large household infestations of these tiny critters. They do not bite, sting, or eat anything in the house (anything that really counts!), but they can occur "all over" and sometimes in great numbers--like thousands of them! Control is usually unnecessary because they don't actually infest structures, and it would be necessary to spray everywhere to kill them.



Springtails are very small (about 1/5 inch long), pale brown to grey colored insects that hop and seem to disappear when disturbed. The common name "springtail" refers to their habit of springing. They actually have a hook-like structure on the bottom of their abdomen. When this structure is snapped against the ground or table top the insect is propelled some distance away.



Springtails (insect Order Collembola) have chewing mouthparts. However, they rarely, if ever, damage any household materials. They are often found in the soil of potted plants, but do not cause damage to the roots or stems. They feed on decaying plant material, fungi, and bacteria. They are often associated with the decline and death of potted plants, but are rarely the cause. Usually the plants have been

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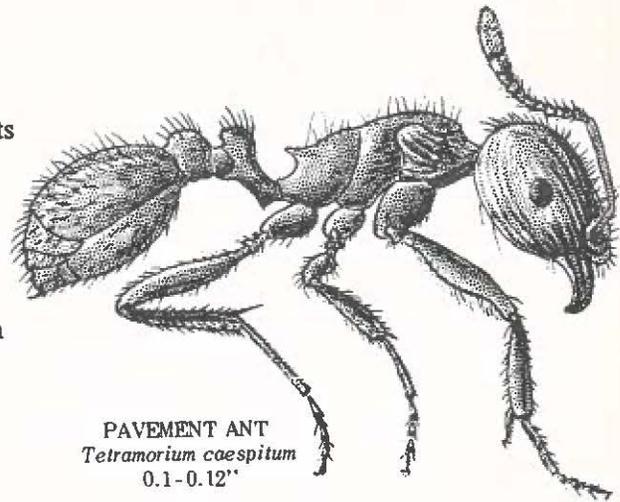
overwatered, the soil is very wet, and springtails are thriving on the excess fungi and bacteria in the soil. When the soil dries the springtails will decline in numbers.

Control. These tiny insects are often found in damp basements, but are also common in new houses! They are very sensitive to moisture conditions, and a decrease in the relative humidity of a house or a basement can be the best form of control. Aerosol insecticides can be used for severe infestations, but are not recommended as a space spray. If the soil of potted plants is infested, consider 1) limiting the watering to let the soil dry out, 2) soak a few cigarettes in a small glass of water for a day, then pour this "liquid insecticide" (containing nicotine) over the soil of the plants, or 3) place a few moth balls on the surface of the soil for a few days.

PAVEMENT ANTYS AND YELLOW ANTS

It seems to have been a good summer for the various ant species that are associated with houses. The most common ants associated with patios, walkways, and foundation walls are yellow ants (the larger yellow ant, and the smaller yellow ant), and the pavement ant (yes, there is actually an ant called "the pavement ant"). While these ants rarely infest houses, and do not infest wood as do carpenter ants. They can occur in large numbers around houses, and can swarm several times during the summer and fall.

Control. Locating the nest site and applying a small amount of liquid insecticide into the nest is the best means of controlling these pests. Any garden insecticide will provide control, but carbaryl (Sevin) used at 1% will provide quick control and will not leave a residue for longer than a day or two.



PAVEMENT ANT
Tetramorium caespitum
0.1-0.12"

ELM LEAF BEETLE CONTROL (read this one!, don't just look at the pictures)

The elm leaf beetle, *Xanthogaleruca luteola*, is a common pest in and around houses. The adults and larvae feed on the leaves of several species of elms planted in urban environments. The adults can overwinter in large numbers around houses, and be a serious pest in the spring when they fly to windows or mass on the sides of houses. Spraying trees to control this insect is often difficult because of the size of the tree, the potential of insecticide drifting to nontarget areas, and the need for proper timing of the application. Researchers at Ohio State University (Hall, Nielsen, Young, and Hamerski) have explored the possibility of applying insecticides to bark of infested trees to reduce the size of pest populations of this insect.

The adults and larval stage of the elm leaf beetle feed on the leaves of the infested trees. Full grown larvae leave the leaves and move down the trunk of the tree, and pupate in the soil near the base. The first generation migrates off the tree to the soil about the middle of June, and the second generation moves from the tree about August 1. An insecticide band applied to the bark of the tree has been shown to be effective in controlling populations at these times.

Control. Chemical control of elm leaf beetle populations on trees around the house can be achieved with the application of liquid carbaryl (Sevin) at 1% concentration to the trunk of infested trees. The insecticide can be applied with a garden-type compressed air sprayer, and the band of insecticide on the tree trunk should be about 36 inches wide. Larvae migrate from the leaves to the soil over a 2-3 week period during mid-June and early August. Two applications about 9 days apart may be necessary to achieve reduction of large populations.

This information provides homeowners with an effective means of controlling this insect pest without large-scale application to the sides of houses or to the trees.

CHEMICAL CONTROL OF WOOD-INFESTING BEETLES

There are several chemicals that can be applied to wood for the prevention or control of existing infestations of wood-boring beetles. The two most common chemicals, *lindane* and *pentachlorophenol* have been used for many years and can be used in certain situations. These chemicals can be applied in attics and crawl spaces--or other places where people or animals are not living on a regular basis. Homeowners or professional pest control operators may use these chemicals. The other insecticide available (to professionals only) is chlorpyrifos (Dursban LO or TC). This chemical has a label for application to wood for the control or prevention of wood-infesting beetles.

STORED-GRAIN VIDEO

A new videotape--"Stored Grain Management"-- is available from the Va Tech LRC Film Library (703/961-6718). The 110-minute, VHS tape is a recording of a national stored grain management videoconference from Oklahoma State Univ. on Feb. 9th 1988. It includes information on insect control, mold prevention, aeration, and storage economics. The presentations are made by nationally known specialists in entomology, plant pathology, agricultural engineering, and agricultural economics. The tape also contains answers to questions called in by people that viewed the live broadcast.



AUGUST REMINDERS

Cluster Flies - Adult cluster flies start looking for overwintering sites in mid- to late-August. People that have had a regular problem with these flies should think about treating the outside of their houses with a liquid insecticide.

House Flies - The hot days of August usually bring large populations of house flies to houses, fast food establishments, even schools. It is time to think about the location and conditions of "dumpsters" or other trash dump locations. House flies breed in garbage, the closer it is to a house the more flies that will be there. Move dumpsters away from doors, and clean the dumpsters regularly!

Fruit Flies - These tiny, red-eyed flies are almost of rite of summer. They usually arrive about the time folks are canning tomatoes, and stay until the first frost! The adults are attracted to the smell of processed or decaying fruit. Make sure the screens fit tightly and check fruit for damage. Aerosol insecticides can be effective.

Earwigs - Earwigs may become a problem in some areas in late summer. These strange-looking insects--with the pincers at the tail end--live under the bark of wood-pile logs, trees, ad other moist places around the house. They may not be a problem until late summer when they move toward the warmth of houses during cool nights. They don't infest houses or bite people.

Yellowjackets - The end of summer usually brings an increase in the nuisance patterns of stinging insects, especially yellowjackets. Controlling large nests should be done with caution, at night when all the insects are back at the nest, and only when wearing protection. There are special aerosol insecticides for the control of wasp and hornet nests--use them!

