

Cadelle beetle: *Tenebroides mauritanicus*

Characteristics:

Adults are elongate, shiny black, and reach a length of 9 mm.

The larvae are fleshy, with black heads and two horny black projections on their posterior ends.



Diet:

Both adults and larvae attack grains, nuts, flour and other milled products. When attacking grain, they often devour only the embryo, leaving the endosperm behind. The larvae and adults also make holes in flour sacks, food cartons and silk bolting cloth.

Biology:

The female beetle lays up to 1000 eggs in groups of 10 to 60 near a supply of food for the larvae. These hatch within 7 to 10 days. The larvae are fleshy, with black heads and two horny black projections on their posterior ends. Under ideal conditions larvae reach their mature length of 1.8 cm in less than 3 months. Adverse conditions may result in the maturation process taking up to 1 year. When fully developed, the larvae leave their food supply for a secluded place to pupate. Adult beetles emerge with 2 or 3 weeks. Adults are elongate, shiny black, and reach a length of 9 mm. There are several generations per year, depending on the temperature and the availability of food. Both adults and larvae bore into the woodwork of grain bins when food supplies are exhausted, only to come out when new grain has been added.

Detection & Management

1. Inspect incoming items.
2. Keep buildings in good physical condition to prevent entry.
3. Keep facilities clean, maintain grounds & quickly remove spilled food products.
4. Store pallets 18 inches away from walls & get rid of unwanted materials.
5. Follow first-in and first-out of commodities.
6. Use insect pheromone or baited monitoring devices.
7. Fumigation of infested commodities and prophylactic treatment at storage area.