

## Customer Information Sheet



### **Bristle Tails** *(Order: Thysanura)*

#### **Characteristics.**

The *Thysanura* are a primitive group, which go through an incomplete metamorphosis (Egg to Nymph to Adult. There is no larval or pupal stage.)

There are about 23 species of bristletails in Britain and about 600 worldwide. Most species live outdoors, although the Silverfish, *Lepisma saccharina*, and Firebrat, *Thermobia domestica*, species are associated with man. They are most active at night with a preference to foods rich in carbohydrates.

Firebrats look very similar to Silverfish but they do not have the silver sheen. Firebrats need higher temperatures usually found in bakeries and cooking ranges whereas Silverfish prefer cooler, damp locations such as bathrooms and pantries.

#### **Distribution and Habitat.**

Common in the UK but found all over the world. Generally foraging at night in bathrooms, kitchens and pantries where they may be trapped in slippery sinks and baths as they cannot climb polished

surfaces. During the day they seek shelter under loose floor fittings, behind skirting boards, under baths, behind loose wallpaper and other similar places.

#### **Biology.**

The female lays about 100 white to brownish eggs near a food source or at random over a period of a couple of months. Juveniles moult approximately 10 times before reaching adulthood, depending on temperature, humidity and food supply.

#### **Pest Factor.**

Silverfish are more a nuisance than a destructive pest, unless they are in large numbers.

They can cause damage to books and wall paper where the glue is rich in protein, they can also chew through leather and fine textiles.

#### **Control.**

To control these insects you can spray a Crawling Insect spray around possible harbourages, or use an insecticidal dust in cracks & crevices where pests may be hiding.

Always remember to read the instructions on any pesticide label and follow them to the letter otherwise you could be endangering yourself and others as well as breaking the law and you will have a better chance of being successful.

**If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact Pest Control on the telephone number overleaf or at [health@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:health@easthants.gov.uk)**