

Red Flour Beetle

Typical Location When Observed: In homes associated with cereal products.

Importance/Damage: Red flour beetles are among the most common insects associated with flour and other milled grain materials.

Distinguishing Features: Red flour beetles are small beetles, about 3/16-inch (3.5 mm). They are reddish-brown with an elongate body form. The segments of the antennae gradually enlarge at the tips forming a small club.

Look-Alikes: The confused flour beetle (*Tribolium confusum*) may also be found in pantries and is almost identical in size and general form. The sawtoothed grain beetle, another common pantry pest, has ridging along the sides of the thorax.

Resources: The recognition and management of this insect is covered in Extension Fact Sheet 5.501, *Insect Pests of Home-Stored Foods*.

Scientific Name: *Tribolium castaneum*

Order: Coleoptera (Beetles)

Family: Tenebrionidae (Darkling Beetles)



Red flour beetle. Photograph courtesy Peggy Grebb/IPM Images.



Red flour beetle with wheat kernel. Photograph courtesy Clemson University/IPM Images.

Actual Length
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