

***Oryzaephilus surinamensis*, the Saw-toothed grain beetle (Silvanidae)**

The saw-toothed grain beetle is cosmopolitan infesting cereals, milled products, convenient foods, dried fruits, oilcakes, and oilseeds. It is a major pest on processed and packaged foods. Infestations disperse throughout grain mass aided by the flat, slender shape of the adults. Adult (2.5 to 3.0 mm length) has flattened body, which is well adapted for crawling into crevices. The margins of the prothorax in adults are saw-like and bear 6 projections on either side, which has given the popular name saw-toothed grain beetle. Thorax has 3 longitudinal ridges. The antennae are short and clubbed. *O. surinamensis* have well-developed wings but generally do not fly. The related species *O. Mercator* (the merchant grain beetle) can fly, is less common and is primarily a pest of oilseeds. The areas directly behind eyes (temple) are curved and wider in *O. surinamensis* whereas in *O. mercator*, the same areas are pointed and narrow. Adults of *O. surinamensis* are long-living (6-10 months), very active, quick moving and can readily cause cross-infestation. A case of survival up to 3 years and 3 months has been reported. A single female lays about 370 eggs. The larvae, external feeders, are white, elongated and somewhat flattened. They attack the germ in whole cereal grains, thereby reducing the percentage germination. At the temperature and humidity of 30 to 35°C and 70% RH. the life cycle takes about 27 to 35 days. The insect pupates in a cell for protection of the comparatively fragile pupa, which is easily damaged by disturbance of the cell.

