

***Rhyzopertha dominica*, the Lesser grain borer (Bostrichidae)**

Primary pest on cereals (paddy, rice, wheat, sorghum and barley) and decorticated split pulses (dhals). The lesser grain borer is a voracious and destructive pest. Severe damage occurs in the warm, drier areas when grain stacks are left undisturbed for long periods. The insect has higher



temperature optima than any other stored grain pest species ($\geq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$) and breeds at a slower rate at 25°C . Development is possible in grain as low as 8% moisture. Adults are dark brown cylindrical beetles, 2-3 mm size with small pits on the elytra; head bent downwards and concealed. The antenna has 10 segments with a loose 3-segmented club. Eggs are laid loosely amongst the grains and the emerged larvae feed on the debris for a while and after second ecdysis they enter the grains where they complete their development and emerge as adults.

Some of the larvae, however, will develop in available flour outside the kernels. Adults are strong flyers; consume about 0.32 mg of grain/day. In addition to feeding, the adults and larvae produce more debris and dust of 54 mg on an average during their lives (*S.oryzae* produces only 11-12 mg of dust). About 244-418 eggs per female are laid. The length of the life cycle ranges from 84 days at 22°C , to 25 days at 34°C and 36 days at 38°C . Adults live for 2-3 months.