

***Stegobium paniceum*, the Drugstore beetle or Spice beetle (Anobiidae)**

The insect feeds on a wide range of materials of both vegetable and animal origin. The insect attacks spices and spice products (chilli, curry powder, turmeric), medicinal plants, books and manuscripts. They can penetrate tin foils and sheet lead. Adults are brown coloured, 3 mm size, globular with elytra striated i.e., with fine longitudinal ridges and antennae with loose 3-segmented club. Adult body appears to be straight (unlike hump-backed *Lasioderma*). The temperature range for the development of drugstore beetle is 15 to 34°C and ≥35% RH. Development is rapid (40 days for the life cycle) at 30°C and 60 to 90% RH. Adults live for 13 to 65 days depending on conditions, lay about 75 eggs/female. The larva forms a cocoon in which it pupates.

