

## PEST CONTROL SERVICE

### Pest Information Leaflet No. 2

#### PSOCIDS



2002-2003  
Crime Reduction in Rural Areas  
2004-2005  
Services for Older People

#### Description

Psocids (also known as booklice) are common but harmless household insect pests which, are between 1mm and 2mm in length i.e. smaller than a pinhead.

#### Biology and Habitat

Psocids are generally found in the kitchen where dry food products such as flour is stored and where humidity is comparatively high favouring the growth of microscopic moulds which the psocids consume. Their preference for the dark makes kitchen cupboards a favourite habitat.

The female will normally lay around 50 eggs but it can be as many as 200 and then, once hatched these develop in a series of up to seven nymphal stages. A psocids life expectancy is approximately four to six months.

#### Importance

Psocids consume little food but their presence will taint foodstuff rendering it unpalatable. Hence psocids are unpleasant and unacceptable but they do not spread disease and do not constitute any risk to health.

#### Control

Remove and dispose of all infested food. Remember that psocids, being small, may penetrate any container which is not completely sealed; in the case of tins remove labels which could be providing harbourage, but be sure to write on the tin what it contains.

It may not be necessary to use an insecticide. Clean cupboards using a dry cloth and by vacuuming, paying particular attention to the crevices between shelving and cupboard carcass. Where wall plaster is exposed paint with an emulsion containing a mould inhibitor. Before reintroducing food ensure the cupboard is completely dry.

Prevent future re-infestation by ensuring your cupboards are free from condensation and damp; ventilate your kitchen particularly during cooking or washing and store all foodstuff in sealed containers.

If you persevere with this advice you should be successful in eradicating these insects, however if you need further help or advice please ring our Pest Control Service on : Stroud (01453) 754919.

Pest Control Service  
Environmental Health Service  
Stroud District Council  
Ebley Mill, Westward Road  
Stroud. Glos. GL5 4UB

e-mail:- [environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk)

Leaflets Available in this Series

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