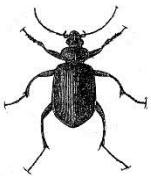


INSECTS THAT PASS THROUGH WINDOW SCREENS

In Hawaii, many tiny insects may occasionally become extremely abundant, particularly after periods of prolonged rainfall. During these periods, numerous complaints are received about large number of tiny insects that enter homes through window screens. These insects are naturally attracted to light and become a nuisance both inside and outside homes. They are not of public health concern because they do not bite or transmit any disease.



Beetles: Beetles capable of penetrating window screens include the bark beetles; powder-post beetles; and certain beetles that infest stored food. Their body color varies between black to reddish brown. Beetles do not invade homes in large numbers.

Gnats: Fungus gnats are the primary cause of nuisance complaints. They are delicate gray to dark gray flies that breed in wet decaying organic matter. Fungus gnats become numerous during prolonged periods of rainfall when abundant rotting vegetation becomes available for breeding.



Midges: Midges resemble mosquitoes, but unlike, mosquitoes, they do not bite people. They are widely distributed and breed in fresh water habitats. They may become extremely abundant in these areas when the water becomes polluted with organic matter. Their body color varies from light green to dark brown.

Moth Flies: These insects are also known as drain or sewage flies. They have scaled wings that are held roof-like over their bodies. They breed in water containing organic matter, particularly those found in drains and sewage plants.



Psyllids: These insects are of agricultural importance because they feed on the tender shoots of trees. Their body colors range from green and yellow to gray-brown. When disturbed they jump easily with their strong hind legs. Psyllids become a nuisance during March-June.



Leafhoppers: These are tiny, wedge-shaped, green and yellow insects. They have a habit of walking sideways and are active fliers when disturbed. They are of agricultural importance because they feed on plant juices of garden vegetables.



Caddisfly: This insect resembles a small moth. It has a slender, hairy, straw-colored body with wings that are held roof-like when at rest. They breed in ponds, lakes, and streams.



Thrips: These are slender, light yellow to black insects with narrow wings fringed with long hairs. They live in blossoms and feed on tender shoots of plants. They may attempt to bite people on occasion.



CONTROL METHODS

Invasion of these tiny insects may be reduced but total exclusion from homes is impractical during their periods of greatest abundance.

A. Physical Barriers:

1. Install or maintain door and window screens.
2. Coat screens with varnish to reduce screen mesh size. This procedure may reduce air circulation in the home.

B. Environmental Control:

1. Avoid over watering of plants.
2. Remove decaying plant material around home.
3. Close windows and draw drapes or curtains at night.
4. Turn off lights next to windows.
5. Install electrocution light traps to lure and destroy these insects in areas of chronic nuisance.

C. Chemical Control:

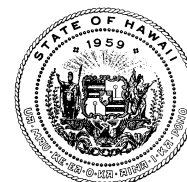
1. Use an insecticide specifically labeled for spraying or brushing on door and window screens to control flies.
2. Apply an aerosol insecticide labeled for flying insects to eliminate insects in the home.
3. Treat breeding areas around home with an insecticide labeled for flies and gnats.

CAUTION: *Certain pesticides and their solvents may cause respiratory irritation. Persons with respiratory diseases should consult their physicians before using any pesticide. IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW IF PESTICIDES ARE NOT APPLIED EXACTLY AS THE LABEL DIRECTS.*

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