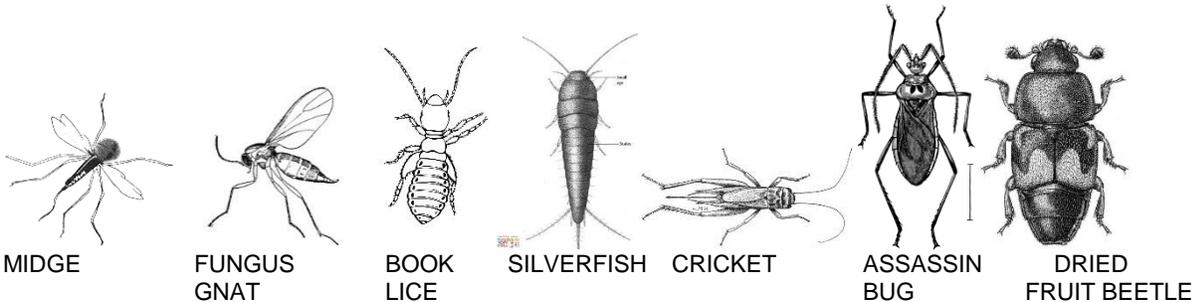


# OCCASIONAL PESTS



**Midges:** Midges become a problem when excessive breeding occurs in ponded water that is polluted with sewage or other effluent. A nuisance is created when large numbers of these midges are attracted to lights of nearby homes. Eliminating the source of breeding is the only practical control method. Call the Vector Control Branch for assistance.

**Fungus Gnats:** Gnats usually become a problem in homes during prolonged rainfall when wet, rotting vegetation breeds fungus gnats in large numbers. Gnats become a nuisance when they enter homes through window screens at night. A residual type of aerosol insecticide labeled for gnat control applied to window screens and an aerosol insecticide for flying insects applied indoors will provide temporary relief. Gnat problems quickly disappear with the onset of fair weather.

**Book Lice:** Book lice are harmless insects that become a nuisance in homes where excessive dampness or humidity occur. Improving the air circulation in problem areas to dry out the dampness usually eliminates this problem. Insecticides are used only when permanent control is not possible.

**Silverfish:** Infestation sites are usually in undisturbed storage rooms with high humidity and a food source of starchy material such as books, magazines, and other paper products. Signs of silverfish damage are irregular holes chewed through paper. Control is with an aerosol insecticide labeled for silverfish control.

**Crickets:** The common house-invading cricket in Hawaii is the flightless field cricket. It can be identified by its short undeveloped wing pads. Control is with an aerosol insecticide labeled for crickets.

**Assassin Bug:** There is only one blood-sucking assassin bug in Hawaii. This dark brown bug with orange markings lives with and feeds on rodents in their burrows. An

assassin bug attack on people indicates a rodent infestation outside the house. Permanent control is achieved by eliminating the rodents and their burrows.

**Dried Fruit Beetle:** The dried fruit beetle is also called the “pineapple beetle” in Hawaii because of its prolific breeding in rotting pineapples in the fields. This beetle occasionally causes a nuisance in homes adjacent to pineapple fields. Infestations are usually of short duration; they quickly disappear after the fields with rotting pineapples are plowed. Infestations in homes can be eliminated with an aerosol insecticide labeled for use against flying insects.

**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.*

For further information and details, contact:

Oahu:  
99-945 Halawa Valley Street  
Aiea, HI 96701  
Telephone: (808) 586-4708

Big Island:  
Environmental Health Facility  
1582 Kamehameha Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720  
Telephone: (808) 974-4238  
(808) 974-4241  
(808) 974-4237



Maui:  
641 Mua Street  
Kahului, HI 96732  
Telephone: (808) 873-3560

Kona:  
Keakealani Building  
79-1020 Haukapila Street, #115  
Kealahou, HI 96750  
Telephone: (808) 322-1509  
(808) 322-1512  
(808) 322-1515



HAWAII STATE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH

Molokai:  
Molokai State Office Building  
65 Makaena Street  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748  
Telephone: (808) 873-3560

Kauai:  
4398 B Pua Loke Street  
Lihue, HI 96766  
Telephone: (808) 241-3306

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