

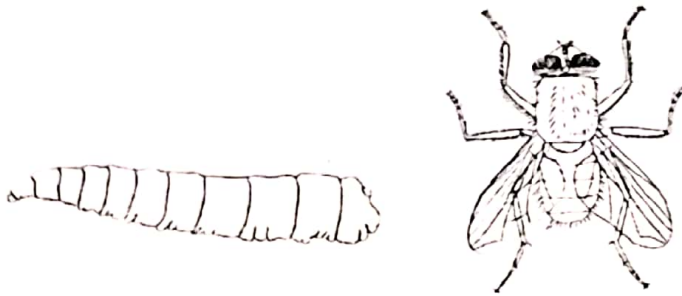
Chapter 6

INSECT PESTS OF HOUSEHOLD

6.1 HOUSE FLY

T.N: *Musca domestica*

(Muscidae; Diptera)



Identification: Eggs are elongated and whitish. Maggots are creamy white. Adult housefly is of dull color with pale grey wings and aristate antennae.

Life cycle: Adult females lay eggs in clusters in heaps of manure or feces. The maggots feed upon decaying matter, crawl to the margins of the breeding material and pupate in brown and barrel shaped puparium. There are 10-12 generations in one summer.

Damage: The greatest damage done by flies is the contamination of food, resulting in the transmission of important infectious diseases to human beings such as fever, cholera, tuberculosis and parasitic diseases to certain mammals and birds of agricultural importance.

6.2 AMERICAN COCKROACH

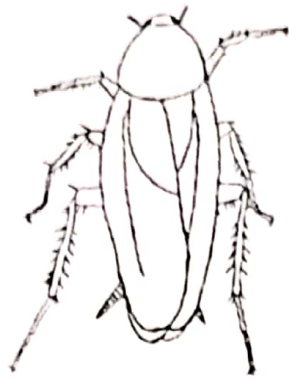
T.N: *Periplaneta americana*

(Blattidae; Dictyoptera)

Identification: Egg capsule is bean shaped and dark brown or black in colour. Nymphs are small and wingless. The adult is of reddish brown in color with flattened body and setaceous antennae.

Life cycle: The female lay eggs in a dark brown bean shaped capsule. The nymphs resemble the adults but are smaller and lighter in color, moult 13 times to become adults.

The adults are long lived and there are several generations in a year.



Damage: The sugary and starchy substances in the houses are damaged by cockroaches by their excreta and offensive smell does not go even after cooking. They also feed upon old damp books and leather articles. These insects are common in old buildings, unclean kitchens and restaurants and other filthy places. These are also important vectors of diseases to human beings such as asthma, cholera and dysentery.

6.3 HOUSE CRICKET

T.N: *Acheta domestica*

(Gryllidae; Orthoptera)

Identification: Eggs are yellowish in colour. Nymphs are small and wingless. The adults are yellowish brown or straw colored with long antennae and stout hind legs which are used for jumping.

Life cycle: It is active throughout the year. Its female lays eggs in batches in the soil, crevices and dark moist corners inside houses. After hatching nymphs emerge which resemble the adults but they are smaller and wingless. The crickets are solitary nocturnal insects and hide during the day time under boxes, behind books, curtains or pictures. There is only one generation in a year.

Damage: At home, these insects are chiefly a nuisance. They will also eat food and cloths.

Control of Household Insects:

- Screening of doors and windows.
- Proper cleanliness should be done to prevent their damage.
- Use poison baits and sticky paper strips to attract and kill a large number of flies.
- Properly dispose the garbage, manures, food waste, human excrement, sewage, dead animals and other organic materials.
- Spray with 2 % malathion or 0.5 % trichlorphos is effective against these insects.