

Scientific Name: *Acheta domesticus* (Linnaeus)  
 Family: *Grylloides sigillatus* Linnaeus  
 Order: Gryllidae  
 Order: Orthoptera

**Status:** Most destructive household pests.  
**Distribution:** No house is free from their population. Various species are distributed throughout the world, out of which *A. domesticus* is most common.  
**Food:** Being omnivorous, they feed on all sorts of materials found in the houses. They damage clothes, starch materials, and pollute food-stuff.



*Acheta domesticus* (Linnaeus)  
 (Gryllidae: Orthoptera)

#### DESCRIPTION OF STAGES

**Adult:** *Acheta domesticus*: Its adult is yellowish brown or straw-coloured and active at night. It is a little over 1/2 inch long and has fully developed wings. It has long antennae, 2 or 3 segmented tarsi and stout hind legs modified for jumping.  
*Grylloides sigillatus*: It differs from *A. domesticus* due to incompletely developed forewings.

**Egg:** Eggs are straw-like, cylindrical, and yellowish in colour. These are found in clusters or in groups and laid in ootheca or capsule in the soil or in crevices and dark moist corners of the house.

**Young ones:** These are tiny and wingless but resemble with the adults. There are about 8 to 12 instars.

**Generations:** There is only one generation in a year.

#### LIFE HISTORY

This insect is active throughout the year and is abundant in monsoon season. It hibernates in winter in the egg stage in the soil.

The eggs are laid in clusters or groups in summer and autumn (May to September). A female lays about 300 eggs. The eggs hatch after one week and give rise to nymphs. There are 8 to 12 instars.

The nymphs are small and wingless but resemble the adults.

After 3 to 4 months, the nymphs become adults which are abundant from late July till winter. The chirping of the females in order to call the male is most familiar sound during night. Feeding, mating and egg laying take place from late afternoon until late morning. They are solitary nocturnal and hide in the day time under boxes, curtains, books, pictures etc.

**The sound mechanism:** The sound of cricket (chirping) is produced by the female in order to call its male. It is produced by stridulating or rubbing the finely toothed right forewing against the hind edge of left forewing.

### DAMAGE

1. Both the adults and nymphs cause damage.
2. These insects frequently eat by making holes in paper, rubber, cotton, linen, woollen or fur garments.
3. They cause annoyance to man because of their frequent chirping noise.
4. They also damage the starch materials and foodstuff and make them dirty.
5. They may sometimes damage crops by chewing roots and under-ground stems of various plants including fruit which touch the ground.

### CONTROL

1. The application of malathion/carbaryl 5% at night is quite effective for the control of this pest.
2. Pyrethroids (such as permethrin, cypermethrin) in 0.1 to 0.5% concentrations as dust, mats or coils and aerosol sprays.