

Silverfish and Firebrats

Typical Location When Observed: Indoors, particularly in attics, storage areas and other sites that are infrequently disturbed. The firebrat tends to occur in warm sites such as near furnaces

Importance/Damage: Minor pest of stored products in homes

Distinguishing Features: Members of this order (Thysanura) are wingless insects with a flattened, elongate body and long thin antennae. The body tapers and from the terminal end extend three long filaments that are often bristly. General coloration is silver or grayish but they are covered with fine scales and some species have extensive patterning of the body. They are fast moving and quickly move to avoid light.

Look-Alikes: The jumping bristletails (Order Microcoryphia) have a similar general shape and long terminal "tails". However they are humped, can jump when disturbed and are uncommon insects only found outdoors.

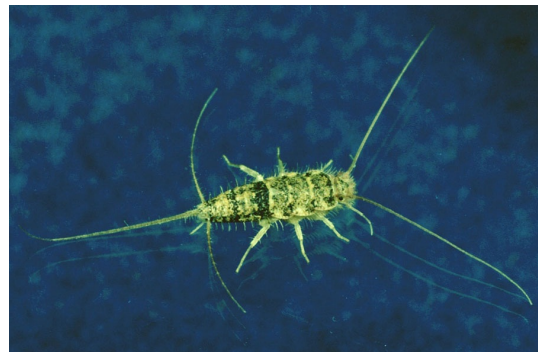
Scientific Names: *Lepisma saccharina* (**common silverfish**), *Ctenolepisma lineata* (**fourlined silverfish**), *Thermobia domestica* (**firebrat**)

Order: Thysanura

Family: Lepismatidae



Silverfish. Photo by Ed Manigault; Courtesy IPM Images



Firebrat. Photo courtesy Clemson University/IPM Images

Actual Length

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