

List of Domestic Pests and Their Control Measures

G Gunasekar*

PG Scholar, Department of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University,
Tamil Nadu – 608 002, India

*Corresponding Author: gunaselanbschonorsagri07@gmail.com

A pest is any organism that poses a risk to humans or their well-being. Species that harm animals, crops, forests, or bother people, especially in their houses, are specifically mentioned by this phrase. Since humans have altered the environment to suit their needs, they are intolerant of other animals sharing their space when it interferes with human goals. Unwanted insects, rodents, and other creatures that intrude into houses, wreaking havoc or endangering human health are referred to as household pests. Common pests like cockroaches, ants, mice, and bedbugs may be among them. The kitchen, bathroom, and bedrooms are just a few of the spaces in the house where these pests can cause havoc.

Household pests

Insects those damage our food materials, clothes, carpets, furniture, hooks etc., and also cause annoyance due to their biting and feeding are called as 'Household pests'

Termites (Termitidae; Isoptera)



Feed on wood, papers, wood products, leaf litter and animal products etc.,

Control

- The soil of the foundation should be treated with chlorpyrifos 0.2%
- For quick and complete eradication, find out the mound, destroy it and pour chlorpyrifos 0.2% @ 9 liters 10 cubic feet of the mound.
- Avoid direct contact of the wood material with soil.
- Foundation walls should be crack free, made of cement concrete, brick and lime mortar and coated with coal tar.

Ants (Formidae; Hymenoptera) - *Monomorium spp*

Carry bits of our food materials to their nests, feed on seeds, dead insects, etc., found in lawns and disfigure them by making mound.

Control

Dusting carbaryl 10 D or spraying of chlorpyrifos 0.25% in infested area. Poison baiting with thallium sulphate can also be done.

Furniture beetle (Anobidae; Coleoptera) - *Anobium spp.*



Grubs tunnel out the hard and drywood timbers and make them into fine packed powder. Small shot holes are visible externally.

Control

- Treat the wood with copper sulphate or zinc chloride.
- Dry the wood at 82°C for half an hour.
- Paint the wood with varnish, paint, tar etc.

Silver fish (Lepismatidae; Thysanura) - *Ctenolepsima spp*



Feeds on starched clothes, rayon fabrics and binding of books, papers on which paste or glue has been used.

Control

- Surface spray application of propoxur 0.5% (Baygon)
- Poison baits made of oatmeal, sodium fluoride or white arsenic, sugar and common salt can be used.

Cockroach (Blattidae; Dctyoptera) - *Periplanata americana*

It feed on binding, books, apers and various food materials, it is nocturnal in habitat and produces foul smell with the excreta spread all over the feeding places.

Control

- Spray propoxur 0.5% (Baygon).

- Dusting malathion or carbaryl at 5%.
- Maintaining cleanliness reduces build up.

Cricket (Gryllidae; Orthoptera) - *Gryllus spp*

Nymphs and adults are nocturnal in habit and produce chirping noise causing annoyance. Collection and destruction are the only method possible to control this pest.

Human pests

Some insects are classified as pests of human beings since they cause nuisance, bite painfully and transmit some of the diseases (vectors)

Mosquitoes (*Aedes aegyptii*)



These are three important species of mosquitos transmit disease causing organism in human beings. The vectors (female) are intermediate host of the causal organisms

- Anopheles spp.* Transmits protozoa (*Plasmodium vivax*; *P. falciparum*) which cause malaria fever.
- Culex fatigans* transmits filarial nematode (*Wuchereria bancrofti*).
- Aedes aegyptii* transmits virus, which causes dengue and yellow fever.

Control

- Use mosquito net over bed or for covering windows.
- Drainage stagnant water.
- Use repellents like citronella oil. E.g., domos
- Use neem smoke or pyrethrum. E.g., mosquito coils

Housefly (Muscidae; Diptera) - *Musca domestica*

Maggot is free living. Adult transmit typhoid, cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, poliomyelitis, leprosy and intestinal worms.

Control

- Keep surrounding clean and neat.
- Properly dispose garbage's, manures, night soil etc.
- String food materials in house proof enclosure or boxes.

Eye fly (Psychodidae; Diptera) - *Siphunculna funicola*



Adults feed on lachrymation and cause annoyance and irritation. It transmits conjunctivitis,

Control

surface spraying with proxur or etofenprox on resting places will control this pest.

Sand fly (Psychodidae; Diptera) - *Phlebotomus argentipes*



It is a small brown fly covered with hairs, found in moist place, female are blood suckers and transmit kala-azar, a disease caused by protozoa, *Leishmania donowanis*. They also transmit pappataci viral fever.

Control

Keep the place clean and dry to ward off the pest.

bed bug (Cimicidae; Hemiptera) - *Cimex hemipterus*



They are ectoparasites of man and are blood suckers. The venom introduced by the bug while feeding cause itching and burning sensation. It is suspected transmit relapsing fever, kala-azar, plagues, etc.,

Control

- White washing and closing the crevices on walls.
- Applying boiling water at the joints of furniture.
- Surface spray application of fenitrothion

Fleas (Pulicidae; Siphonaptera)

Fleas are apterous with heavily chitinised and laterally compressed body and are ectoparasite of warm-blooded animals. Their biting cause irritation. Only adult are parasitic and larvae feed on organic materials.



Fleas infest dogs, cattle and human beings and transmit bubonic plague caused by bacteria, *Pasteurella pestis*. Rats attack man during epizootic of plague among rests.

Control

- Do not handle dead rats but burn by pouring kerosene.
- Treat breeding places with propoxur.

Human louse (Pulicidae; Siphunculata)

Body louse, *Pediculus humanu humanus* and head louse, *p. h. capitis* are blood suckers and cause

irritation by their bite. They transmit relapsing fever, epidemic typhus and trench fever.

Control

- Comb the hairs and collect the lice and kill
- Treat infested head with kenz or mediker containing gamma HCH.
- Regularly wet the hairs, clean and comb.

References

House hold insect pests – Norman, E. Hickin



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