SPRINGTAILS & BOOKLICE

So Different – But So Alike!

Presented by Forrest E. St. Aubin, BCE
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Two groups of **pests** –

So different, but so alike

- Springtails aka Collembola
  - No longer considered among the Insecta
- Booklice (and barklice) aka Psocoptera
  - An order among the Insecta

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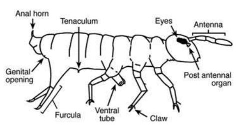

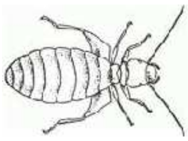

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They feed upon

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Why Are They A Problem?

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The Problem Is ---

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What is the Cause?

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The Surrounding Environment

- Grass with deep decomposing thatch adjacent to structure.
- Gutters with a buildup of decomposing leaves.
- Window wells with other organic material.
- Slowly decaying ornamental timbers, tree stumps, etc.
- Decaying wooden structural elements.
- **Foundation planting beds covered with organic mulch.**

The Weather

- Springtails require a relatively cool, damp and dark environment.
- Summer in these latitudes often does not provide such an environment.
- Where can they find such an environment?

The Customer

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- Safer Soap® on the soil and body of house plants and other plants seasonably moved indoors and outside.

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- Might lightly dust protected areas such as mud sills and window sills with diatomaceous earth.

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- Question regarding springtails?

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Booklice

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Sources of Food

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Control

- Maintain humidity below 50%.
- Sanitation and housekeeping.
  - Pantries
  - Libraries
  - Document storage
- Pesticide application, if necessary.
  - Diatomaceous earth dusts
  - Silica aerogels
  - Synthetic pyrethroids
  - Neonicotinoids

This talk presented by

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