

Click Beetle

(Elateridae)

Over 130 endemic species and 3 introduced species in New Zealand



Size: 12 -20 mm

Colour: Uniformly black/brown. Elongate, parallel-sided, compact, streamlined beetles with serrate (saw blade like) antennae.

Pest Status: Larvae (grubs) are the wireworm that feed on plant roots/tubers of potatoes, beets etc. Not a structural pest but may sometimes enter buildings from Spring through to late autumn. Not a known vector for food borne illness but presence is objectionable.

Habits: **Food Source:** Plants roots and tubers Lives outside but sometimes enters structures as a casual intruder. Fly predominately at night.

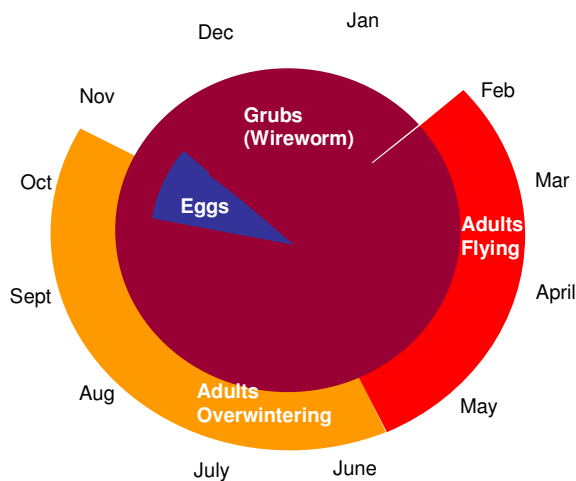
Harbourage: Organic matter and debris.

Life Cycle: The click beetle produces only one generation a year, but the life stages overlap. Go through four stages (egg, larvae, pupae and adult) or full metamorphosis.

Eggs: One adult female can lay several eggs in soil containing the roots of suitable plants..

Grubs: The wireworm feed on the roots of suitable plants for an extended period.

Adult: When a click beetle is rolled over onto its back the beetle arches its back and produces a notable clicking sound as it catapults through the air. The power conducted by this clicking mechanism is one of the strongest forces produced by a land animal and is used to escape bad situations. Adults are strong fliers and attracted to lighting especially high mercury but also fluorescents and incandescents. Sodium orange/ yellow lights are less attractive



Distribution: Widespread throughout NZ

Best preventative practices:

Exclusion. Interception and prevention of entry into critical areas is the first and most obvious way to prevent crickets. Seal all potential entry points with sealant, flashing, compressive strips or other means. Click beetles can squeeze through deceptively small cracks and gaps. Repair any holes and gaps in walls, floors etc. Gaps larger than 2mm deep can permit entry. Door and light control (where feasible) is desirable during the flight season.

Sanitation. Click beetle infestations are not a reflection of poor hygiene and sanitation conditions.

Suppression. Inspection, monitoring and treatment of harbourages. Barrier treatment at entry points and vicinity when detected with approved methods of control can assist in preventing entry.