

insect answers



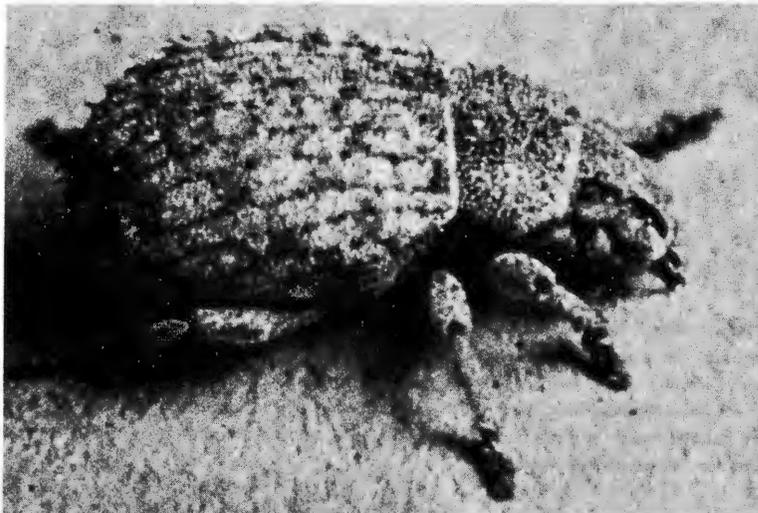
GRASS WEEVIL

The grass weevil, *Trachyploeus bifoveolatus*, or the crusted root weevil, as it is otherwise known, is an introduced species of beetle from Europe. It is not a major economic pest of crops, but due to its habit of entering homes it has acquired the status of nuisance pest.

Life Cycle

Details of the life cycle are not known. Eggs develop into a grub stage, which probably feeds in the soil on roots of many plants. These insects are commonly found breeding in pasture lands or similar situations. They have occasionally damaged strawberry plantings that were previously in pasture.

The adult beetle is generally gray, somewhat



Grass weevil.

spherical, just over 1/8 inch long, and cannot fly. Like many root weevils, there are no males. The weevil is parthenogenic, which means that all eggs that are laid are destined to be females.

Adult beetles often appear in August, September, and October. Besides clinging in large numbers to building walls, the weevils often enter homes, apparently seeking protected overwintering sites.

In spring, especially March, homeowners may again notice grass weevils becoming more active and apparently moving to leave the shelter of building structures.

Control

These insects are quite harmless and will not damage house furnishings, support structures, stored food, or pets.

Grass weevils are not easily killed with insecticides. At present the best advice is to sweep or vacuum up the beetles and dispose of them in an outside garbage can. Be sure to dispose of the vacuum cleaner bag after vacuuming as the weevils can escape and reinfest the home. Entry of the weevils into the home can be prevented by tight-fitting window screens, snug-fitting door frames, and general "bug proofing" of the home.

