

MILLIPEDE

DESCRIPTION

There are many species of millipedes, most of which are long, cylindrical, many-segmented, worm-like creatures. There are, however, some millipedes such as *O. gracilus*, that are flattened. Every millipede has two pairs of legs attached to each apparent body segment. Most millipedes are brown or black, but some species are orange or red. They range in size from 5/8" to 4" in length.

BIOLOGY

Millipedes are found in situations that combine a great deal of decaying organic matter with a highly moist environment. They can build up tremendous populations in forest litter and compost heaps. Millipedes become structural pests when they invade homes and other structures, often in staggering numbers. These invasions can usually be traced to a source that has high moisture and a large amount of organic matter.

CONTROL

Remove the source of the infestation. Remove decaying vegetation or harborage areas where possible. A residual spray should be applied around the perimeter of the building to be protected. Large numbers of these pests that successfully invade homes are most effectively controlled by vacuuming them up and discarding the collected material.

