Silverfish, Firebrats, Booklice, and Springtails
Inconsequential insects often found in sensitive environments

Nebraska Extension
These insects feed on organic matter

- Paper, book bindings
- Starchy materials
- Fabrics and wallpaper
- Mold

Booklouse
Silverfish
Springtail
Firebrat
Silverfish and Firebrats

- About $\frac{1}{2}$" long when fully grown
- 2 long antennae and a flattened-carrot shape
- Wingless
- 3 long appendages on the posterior end
Booklice

- Tiny, grayish, soft-bodied insect
- Crawling, often around paper
- Wingless

Photo: University of Nebraska—Lincoln Department of Entomology
Springtails

- Tiny jumping insects
- Found in damp locations or around potted plants or greenhouses
- Feed on mold, fungi

Furcula, a forked structure, that helps springtails jump

Photo: North Carolina State University
Silverfish and Booklice

- Associated with cardboard boxes of materials stored in damp places
  - Store materials in plastic bins with tight-fitting lids
Firebrats

- Look like silverfish, but often brown
- Prefer moist areas above 90°F
- Most commonly found in furnace and boiler rooms
Monitoring

- Any kind of sticky trap will catch these insects

Photo: University of Nebraska–Lincoln
Non-chemical management is best

- Fix moisture problems
- Reduce humidity to <50% in libraries and paper stock rooms
- Use desiccants, if needed
- Reduce overwatering of plants
- Greenhouses may need special attention
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