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## Lesser grain borer

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Lesser grain borer (*Rhyzopertha dominica*) adults are a slim-bodied, red-brown to black beetle. It is long-lived, feeds, and is a strong flier. Adults are 2.5-3 mm long. Pre-adult stages are difficult to see in the tunnels which the insect bores in grains. Larvae live concealed within flour or grains.

This pest is now commonly resistant to organophosphate insecticides, and must be controlled with methoprene, or fumigated with phosphine used strictly according to label. With resistance to methoprene now identified in this insect, alternative protectant insecticides such as spinosad, bifenthrin and deltamethrin are expected in the Australian market in the near future.

If disinfesting grains with dichlorvos, note that the high application rate is necessary for lesser grain borer – hence the requirement for a long 28-day withholding period, (see Table 7, p.10, [Insect control in stored grain](#)).