

Ctenolepisma longicaudata (known as gray silverfish)



Gray silverfish exists in homes, offices, schools and kindergartens. Gray silverfish is not harmful to people, animals, or buildings. Many of us must expect to get these bugs in our homes. The insect was described in 1905 in South Africa, but the species has probably been in many countries all over the world for a long time.

The bug was discovered in Norway in October 2013 and is now spreading with record speed. Adults have a length of 15-19 mm and can live for up to 7 years. They are sexually mature at 3 years of age and can lay 56 eggs a year in average.

It is assumed that as many as 50% of modern homes in Norway will have a gray silverfish present in 3-5 years.

Protector received the first claims case regarding gray silverfish in 2015 and has currently 266 cases registered. We have 32 legal submissions where gray silverfish represents the full or a part of the claim, 7 decisions, 2 of whom have been appealed. No decisions have been made as of today by the Court of Appeal.

We have collaborated with several external parties from 2016 in order to identify the problem and contribute to help testing possible eradication methods. So far no eradication methods have proven to be successful in completely removing the insects, but the number of insects can be limited by repeated treatments from pests companies, sticky traps, cleaning and vacuuming frequently.

Additional information (in Norwegian) can be found in the following links:

Mycoteam:

<https://skjeggkre.no/>

<https://skjeggkre.no/resources/skjeggkre/files/Prosjektrapport-januar-2018.pdf>

Folkehelseinstituttet:

<https://www.fhi.no/nettpub/skadedyrveilederen/smadyr-andre/skjeggkre/>