

SPERM CELLS OF RHYZOPERTHA DOMINICA (FABRICIUS)  
(COLEOPTERA: BOSTRICHIDAE)

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The lesser grain borer, Rhyzopertha dominica(Fabricius) is a cosmopolitan pest of wide variety of foods, chiefly cereals. Several authors, e.g. Potter (1935) and Howe (1950), have given accounts of its biology, and Srivastava (1955) described the male reproductive system. The present paper describes sperm ultrastructure and spermiogenesis in this species. Burrini et al. (1988) did a comparative study of the spermatozoa of Curculionoidea and listed available work on coleopteran spermatozoa. No species of Bostrychidae have been studied previously.

R. dominica conserves the primitive characters of eupyrene sperm cells, such as the three layered acrosomal complex, "9+9+2" configuration of tubules in the flagellum, and low degree of differentiation of the other tail organelles. The tail has two small accessory bodies and two mitochondrial derivatives of equal size. The latter are partially filled with electron dense crystalline material.