my project

pest infestation in museums

why are pests so bad?

- cause damage to collection
- weaken/destroy material heritage
- hamper examination of materials

- objects that need protection too sensitive for standard pest control procedures

how to avoid pests

- IPM
  - Integrated Pest Management
  - site-specific

how to avoid pests

- sanitation
- temperature 19°C-21°C
- relative humidity 55%-60%
- monitor lighting
- check regularly
- remove potential sources of infestation
- set traps/barriers
- record keeping
- check incoming/outgoing thoroughly

who are the bad guys?

- us
- powder post beetles
- dermestes beetles
- case making clothes moths
- termites
- silverfish
- and many more

categories of pests

- 1) fabric pests
- 2) wood pests
- 3) stored product pests
- 4) moisture pests
- 5) general pests

what are you looking for?

- frass (droppings)
- exuvae (cast skins of larvae)
- previous infestations
- general damage

- if detectable then damage already taken place

each pest unique

- identify
- learn biology
- learn habits

- deal with infestation individually
  - pest and object infested

what to do if infestation found (brief)

- isolate object
- identify pest
  - if harmful
- find source
- develop treatment strategy
- document both infestation and treatment

treatments

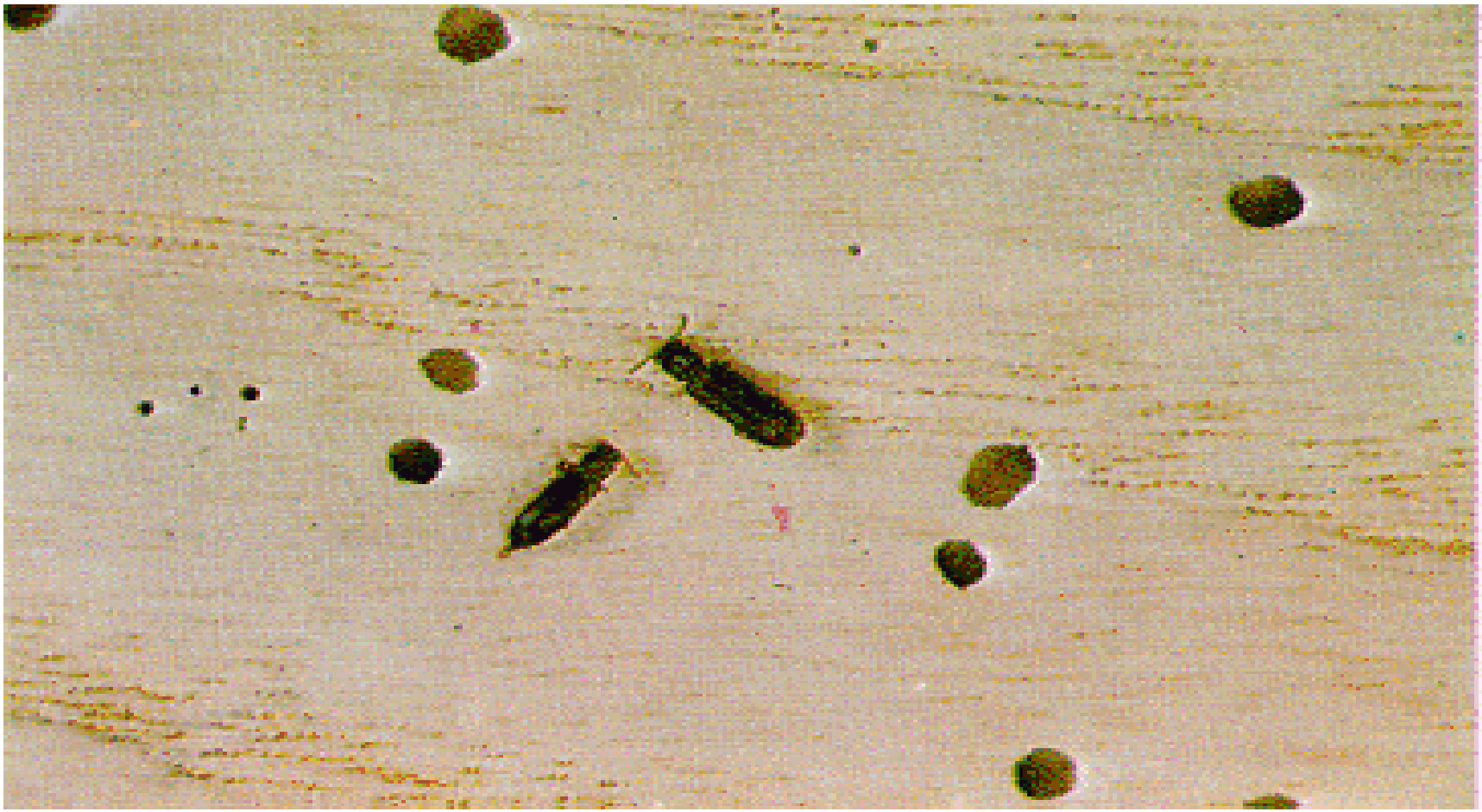
- cold treatment
- heat treatment
- pesticides
- fumigation
- alternative (carbon dioxide treatment)

why be careful?

- health risk
- risk to collection

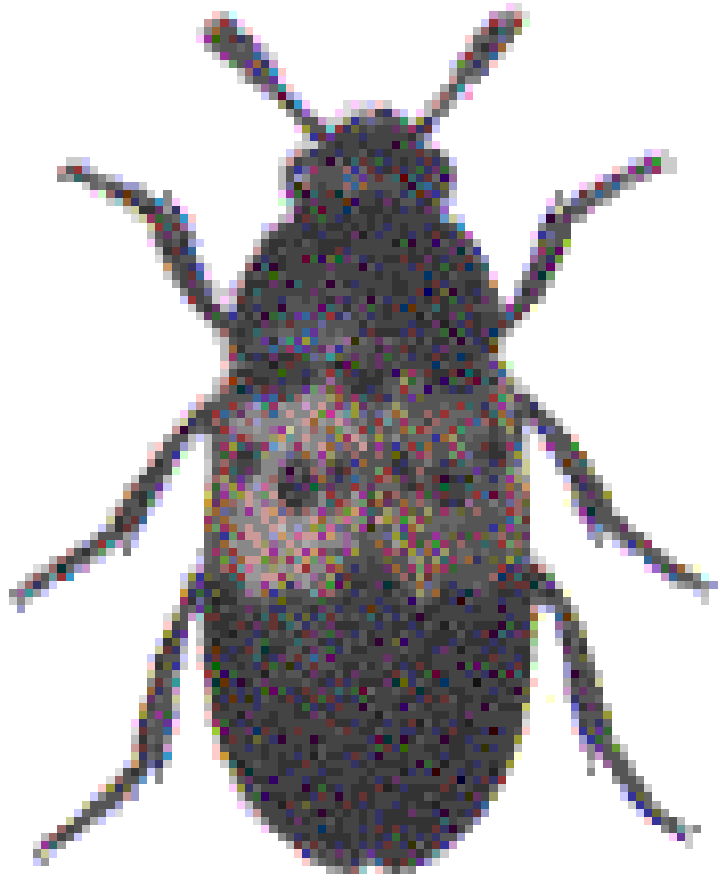
- previous treatments toxic (arsenic, DDT)

powder post beetle

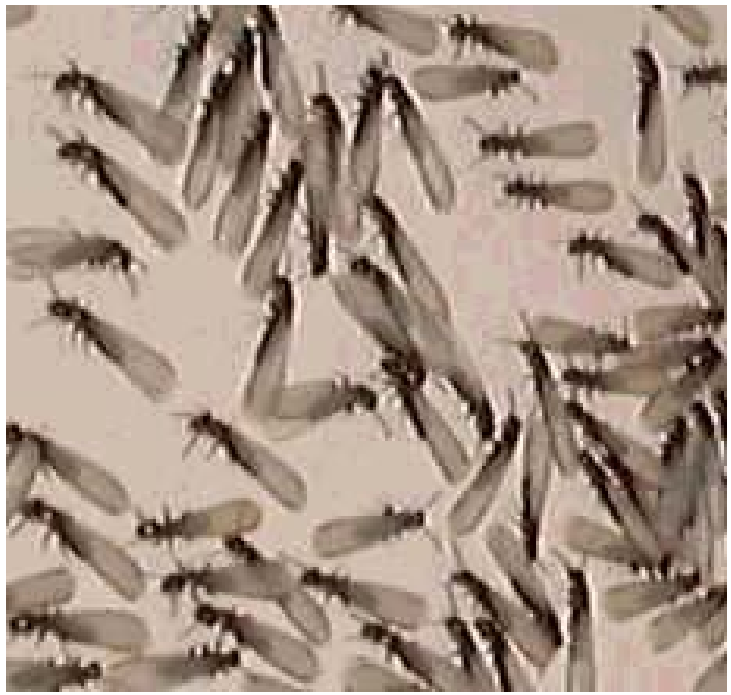


case making clothes moth

dermestes beetle



termites



silverfish