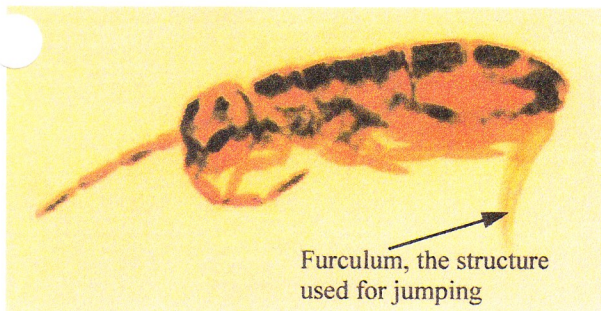


Springtails Info Sheet



Springtails (Collembola) are minute, primitive insects. They are smaller than fleas, can jump, and can invade houses in enormous numbers. Springtails feed on algae, fungi, decaying vegetation and such. They are moisture sensitive, and are quite common. In favorable conditions, you can get 10,000 per cubic foot of dirt.

Here we find them invading houses in large numbers in spring and summer. Their environment, formerly moist, is now drying up, and the springtails will move to find suitable areas to live. This may take them into houses. However, they cannot live indoors, except in potted plants. Collembola do not bite or cause damage. But they are

annoying in large numbers! Pesticide treatments have varying results. Time usually solves the problem. The heavy and protracted rains of spring 2005 created prime conditions for collembola, and their populations seem to have exploded.
