

There is no common name. They are resistant to Chlordane, Dieldrin and Aldrin. There has been some control from Diazinon or Dylox or Proxol.

Egg laying takes place in low wet areas in April. The season's life cycle is, eggs in spring, grub or larva in summer, pupa in late July or early August. Adult beetle early part of August.

Ed. Note: This cycle is known in the Chicago area and was first noticed in 1975 on golf courses in the Chicago area on *Poa annua* and bentgrass turf. It also has been observed in the southern part of Illinois in 1974.

NEW TURF PEST DISCOVERED IN OHIO GOLF COURSES

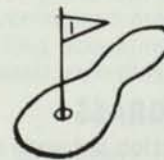
We have confirmed the identification of a small grubworm that has literally destroyed thousands of square feet of *Poa annua* and bent grass turf in golf courses in southern Ohio. Dr. Harry D. Niemczyk, turf research entomologist at our Wooster Agricultural Research and Development Center, collected some of the grubs and sent them to Washington, D. C. to be identified. The identification came back as *Ataenius spretulus*. The beetle has no common name.

I first came in contact with the grub in July of 1973 when one of our golf course superintendents in Cincinnati called and said his whole course was full of brown patches. I went down and sure enough there were brown patches ranging in size from a golf ball to a square yard. In lifting up the dead area I could count as many as 50 grubs per square inch — yes, per square inch. I've never seen that many grubs in one place in my whole life. Since it was July, I thought that these grubs were probably newly hatched Jap. beetles, or northern masked chafers. Our attempts to rear them were unsuccessful. For control measures, I suggested to the superintendent that the course be treated with diazinon right away and aldrin in the early spring. This was done and control was obtained in the fall of 1973. This summer I got another call from the same superintendent indicating the grubs were back again. The aldrin should have killed them. This time Dr. Niemczyk went down in July and collected adults, pupae, and grubs. He sprayed the adults with Sevin, diazinon, and aldrin in the laboratory to check for resistance and also to see what these materials would do against them. They were highly resistant to aldrin, but easily killed by the other two materials.

Dr. Niemczyk has reviewed the literature and has told me that there is very little known about *Ataenius spretulus*. In fact, he found only 2 papers on the subject. One dated back to the late 1800's. He indicates that there is probably one generation a year. They overwinter as adults in debris such as grass piles and other such materials. In the spring, they come out of hibernation, lay their eggs in turf and by mid-late July

emerge as adults. What they do from August on isn't quite clear. We don't know if the adults feed, or what they do. It seems that *Poa annua* and bent grass are their favorite foods. However, Dr. Niemczyk did find them in bluegrass.

Richard L. Miller
Extension Entomologist
1735 Neil Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43210
422-5274



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