



FACT SHEET LANDHOPPERS

PRAWNS IN THE HOUSE ?

You may have experienced a small prawn or shrimp like insects dead around the skirting or floor edges. These are known as Land hoppers.

Land hoppers are segmented, shiny, grey-brown crustaceans that are taller than they are wide. The seven pairs of legs are obvious, especially the longer ones near the back on which they can walk in a clumsy manner.



Land hopper, *Arcitalitrus sylvaticus*

Photographer: David Staples / Source: Museum Victoria

Land hoppers are usually seen when they hop, apparently in a hysterical manner, when they are disturbed from their preferred home in damp leaf-litter or under pot-plants in the garden. The common species can grow up to 9 mm long. Sometimes large numbers of land hoppers find their way indoors, where they quickly dry out to shrimp-coloured crisps or small prawns

Land hoppers belong to one of the most abundant groups of Crustacea, the Amphipoda. The common species in gardens in Melbourne and Sydney is called *Arcitalitrus sylvaticus*.

Exopest do not recommend treatment internally as it's a seasonal migration and the insect dies, best to just vacuum them up. Some treatment externally around leaves mulch can be done or none chemical solution is to remove this as a harbourage or breeding location.

Exopest Thank the Museum Victoria for the use of the article and photo