

## Common New England

# Nonharmful Home Invaders



**Boxelder bugs** gather on the outside of houses in the fall seeking overwintering sites. While they do feed on seed-bearing boxelder trees and a few other plants, the feeding does not cause significant damage. Those that move into the house can be swept or vacuumed. Adults are 1/2 inch long. Removing a female boxelder tree next to the house prevents the problem.



**Earwigs** often move into homes on transported goods, such as yard sale purchases. They are typically found in moist areas near the foundation, under boards, or in cardboard boxes in damp areas. The pincers are distinctive but not really threatening. Earwigs can damage flowers and vegetables, but inside the home they do not harm people, pets, or furnishings.



**Multicolored Asian lady beetles** (also called the “Halloween lady beetle”) have a wide range of orange and black color patterns. They gather on buildings in fall seeking overwintering sites, but do no real harm and can be swept or vacuumed. They provide biocontrol of aphids and other small pests.



**Pseudoscorpions** are very small, only a few millimeters long. They are beneficial in that they feed on small insects and spiders. Pseudoscorpions do not have a stinger on the rear as true scorpions do, and are harmless to people and pets. They prefer humid conditions and are often found near bathrooms.



**Western conifer seed bugs** move into homes in the fall, but not in great numbers. Adults are 3/4 inch long. Their size and slow movements can be alarming, but they are relatively harmless. When handled or crushed they exude a foul odor.