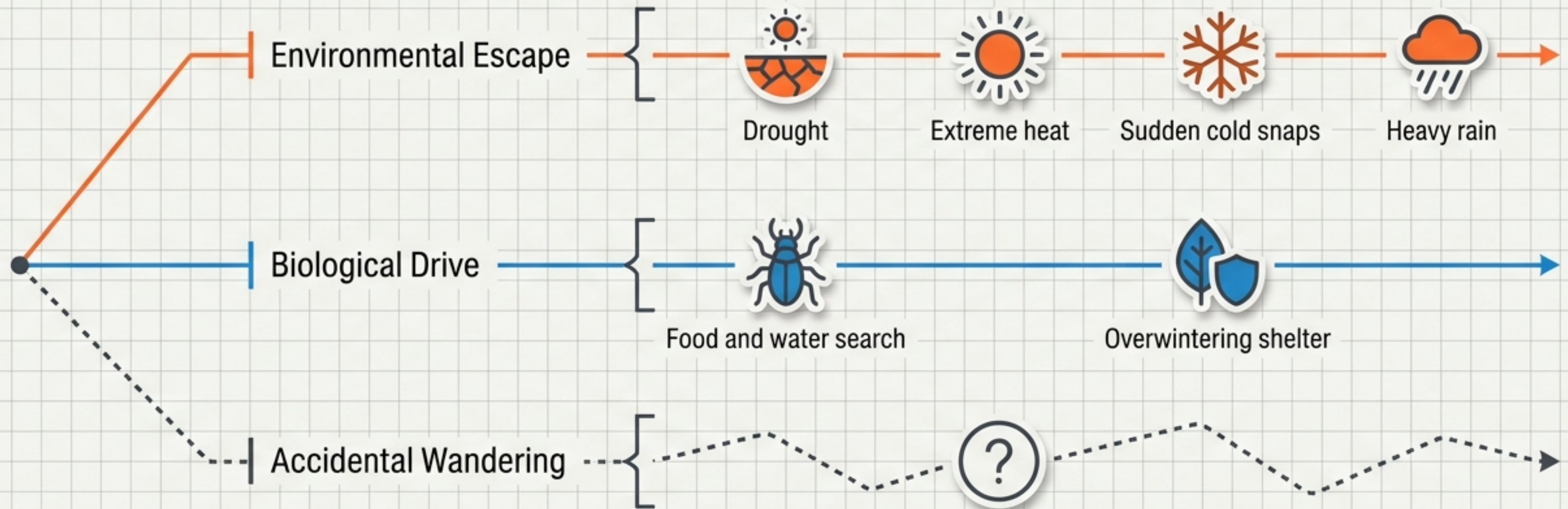


Diagnostic Field Guide: Occasional Invaders

Morphological Identification & Environmental Triggers

The Anatomy of an Occasional Invasion

“Normally found outdoors, these pests pose a unique diagnostic challenge due to their infrequent encounters and temporary indoor presence.”



The Moisture & Soil Group



Scuds (Amphipods)

Trigger: Heavy rainy weather.

Note: Primarily outdoor moisture dependents that enter temporarily.



Sowbugs

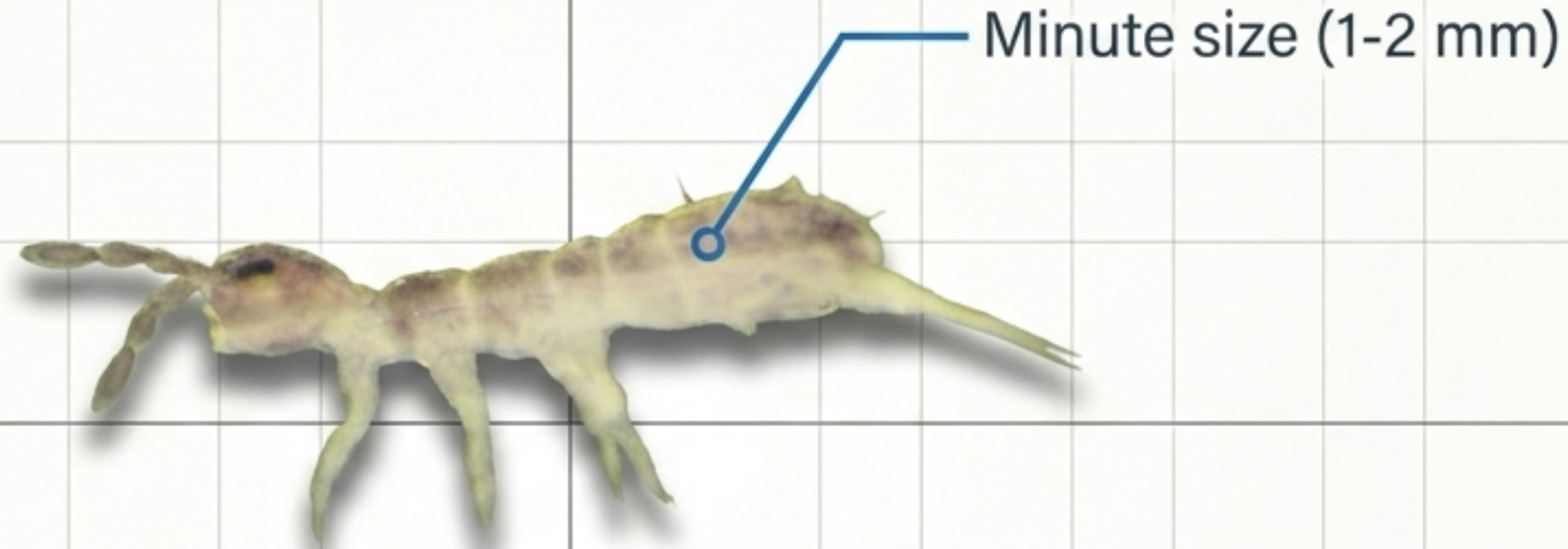
Environment: Soil-dwelling
accidental invaders.



Earwigs

Environment: Soil-dwelling
accidental invaders.

Diagnostic Profile: Springtails (Order Collembola)



Habitat Data

Breeds heavily in turf, mulch, and soil.

Common across all geographic areas and throughout all seasons.

Myriapod Showdown: Millipedes vs. Centipedes



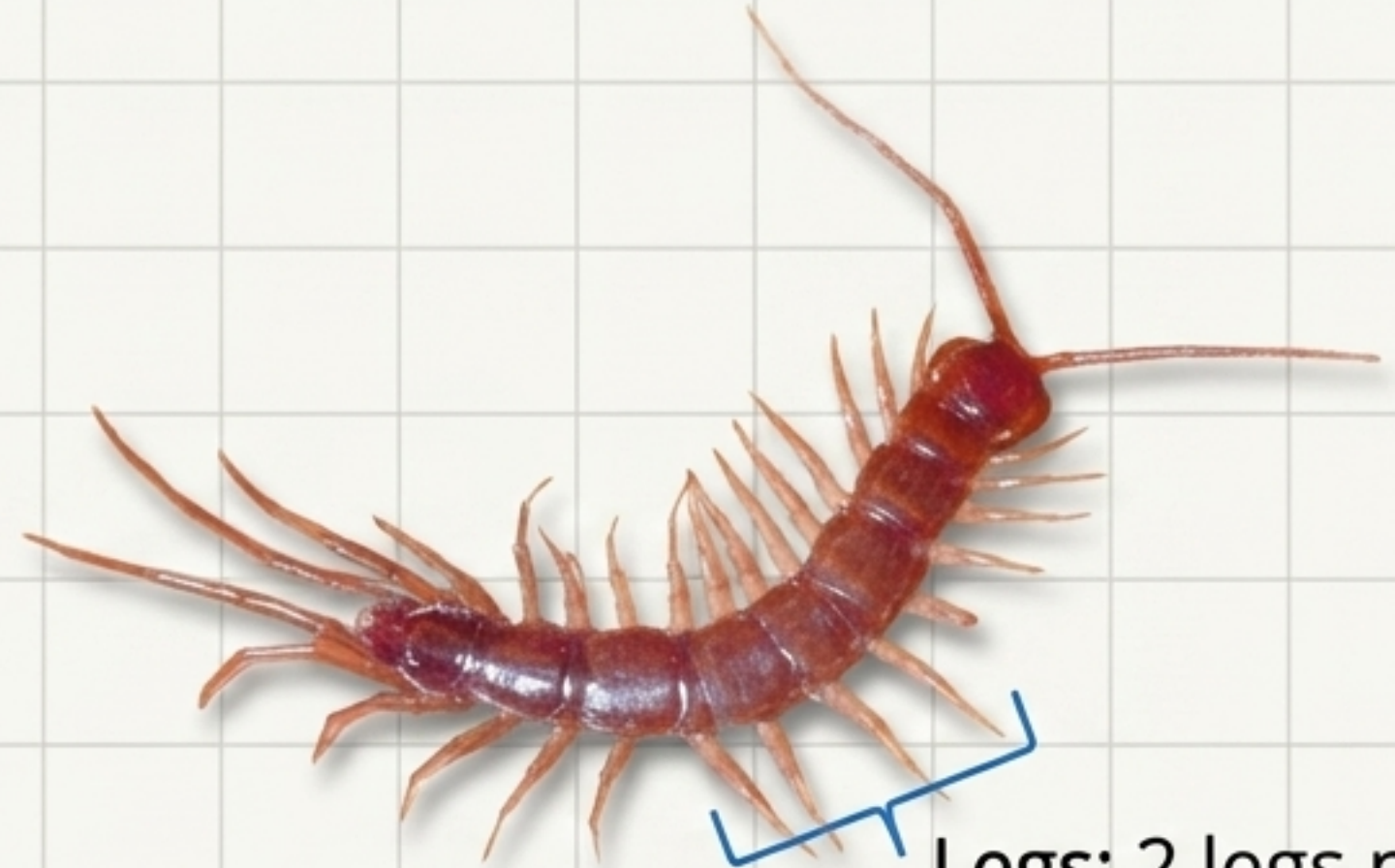
Legs: 4 legs per
body segment



Diet: Herbivore.



Behavior: Often present in
large numbers.



Legs: 2 legs per
body segment



Diet: Predator.



Behavior: Less abundant;
solitary hunters.

The Hemipteran Threat Spectrum



Boxelder Bug

Habitat: Maples and box elder trees.

Nuisance



Nipple Gall Maker

Size: 1/8 inch

Habitat: Hackberry trees, frequently found on windowsills.



Critical Diagnostic Feature: Long Neck

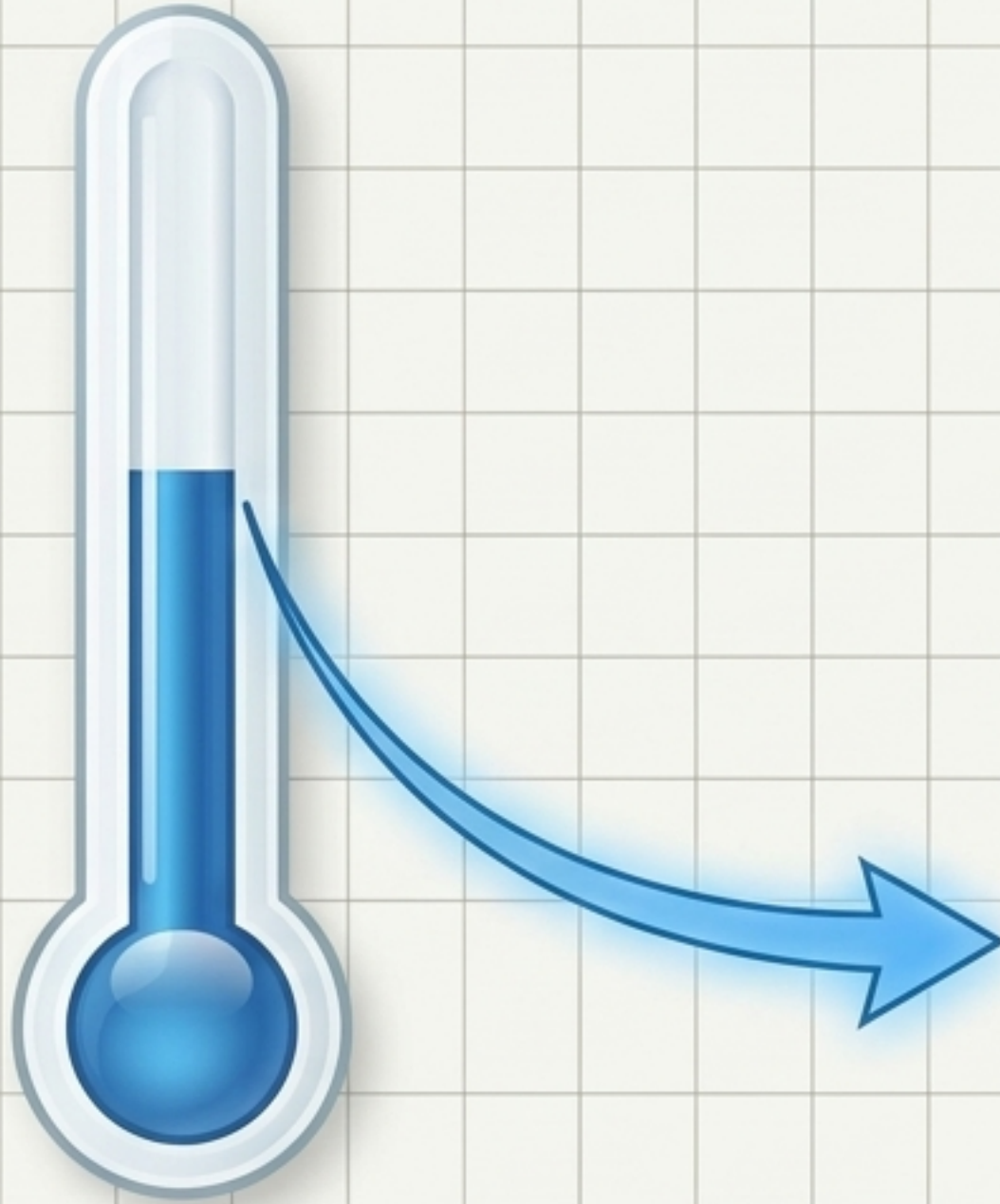
Cone Nosed Bug (and related bat/bird bugs)

Size: 1 to 1 1/2 inches long

Diet: Feeds on mammals.

Health Threat

Overwintering & Aggregation Behavior (Beetles)



Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle

Trigger: The first cold spell in fall.

Behavior: Congregate in massive numbers on the sides of buildings seeking overwintering shelter.

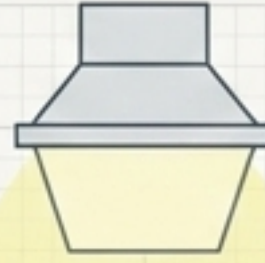


Carabid (Ground) Beetles

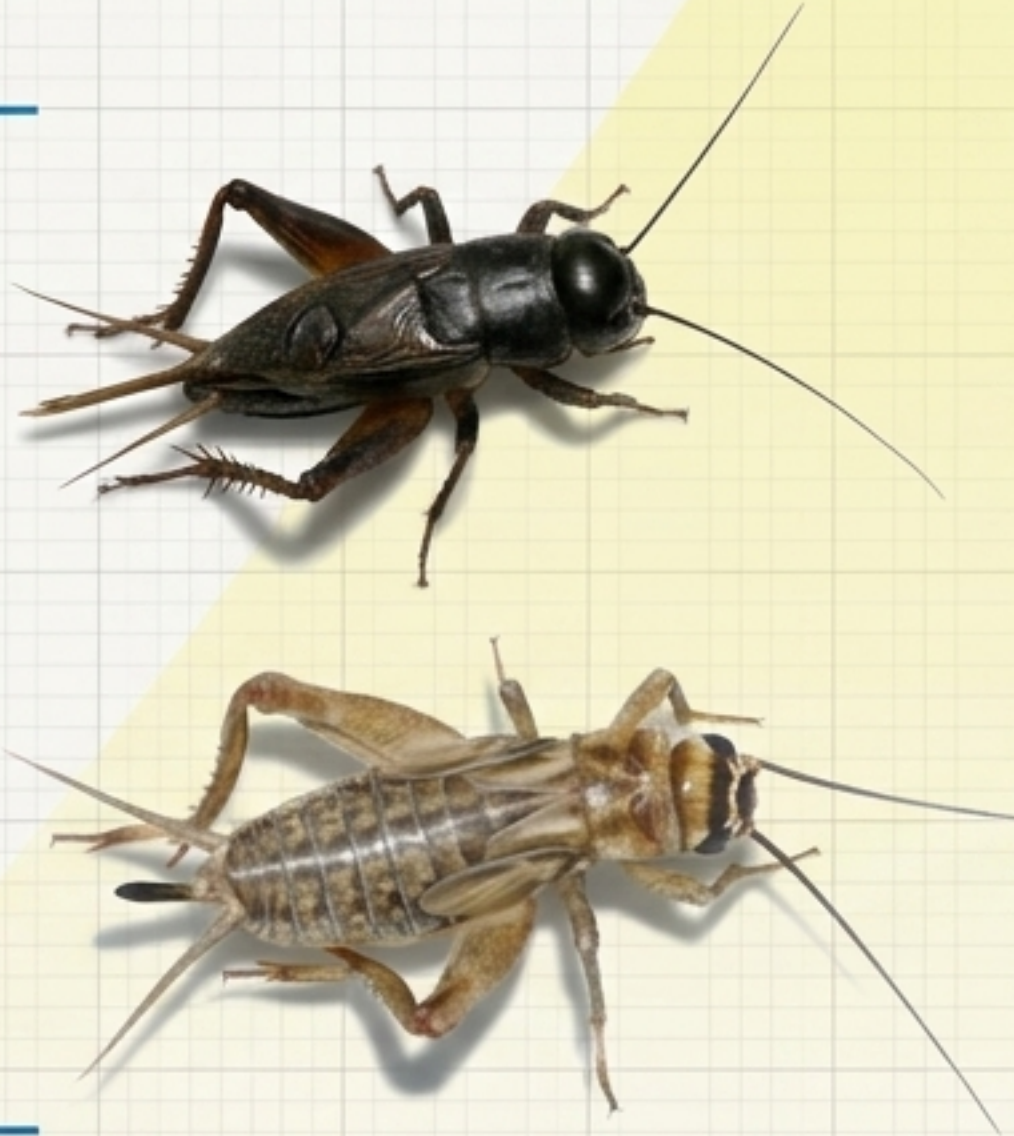


Elm Leaf Beetles

The Phototactic Invaders (Light-Attracted)



Cricket Grouping:
House Cricket,
Field Cricket,
Camel Cricket.



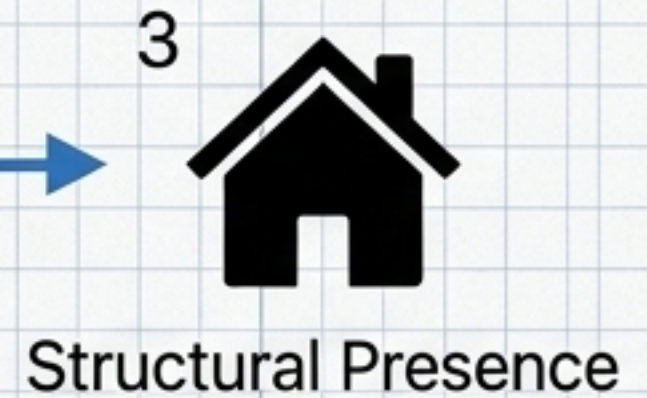
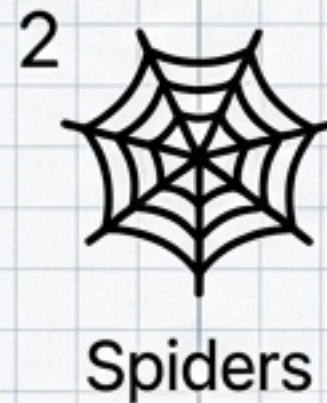
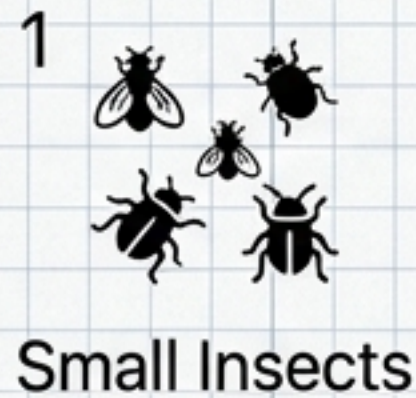
Seed-feeding Hemipterans

Behavior: Occasionally enter homes in large numbers specifically after being attracted to lighted buildings.



The Predator Dependency: Spiders

Intervention Strategy: Reduce the food source, and you reduce the spiders.
Primary physical control: Vacuuming.



Core Insight: Most spiders in the home are hunting small insects. Spider bites in humans are exceedingly rare.



Jumping Spider



Wolf Spider



Ground Spider

Specialized Hunters & Parasitoids (Wasps)



Paper Wasps
(Structural nesters/foragers).



Cricket-Hunting Wasps
(Targeted predators).



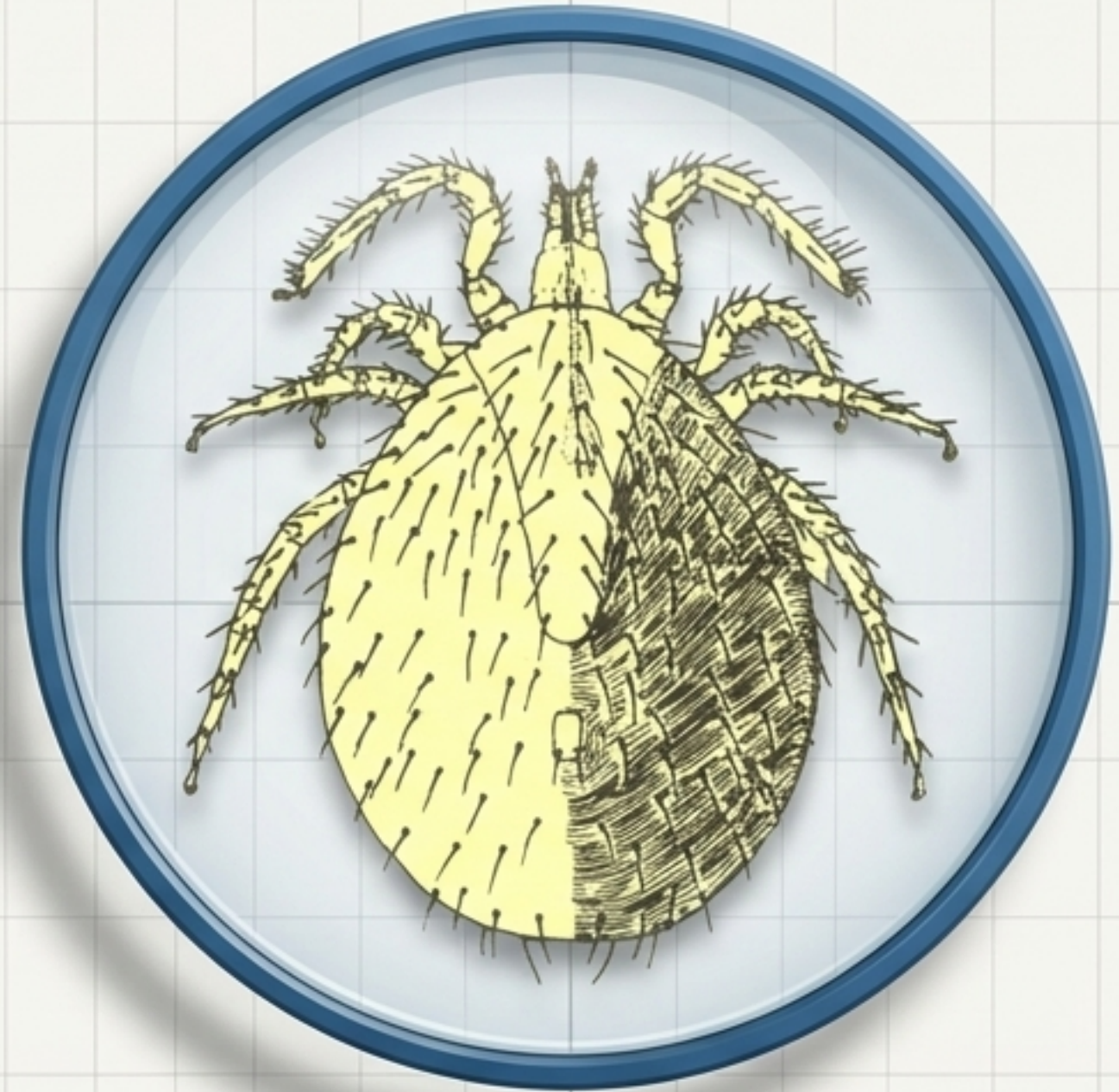
Braconid Parasitoid Wasps
(Parasitic lifecycle).

Micro-Invaders: Plant & Host Mites



Clover Mites

Focus: Plant-feeders that mass-migrate indoors.



House Mouse Mites & Bird/Rodent Mites

Focus: Host-dependent parasites left behind after the primary vertebrate host is removed.

Diagnostic Synthesis: The Environmental Trigger Map

Environmental Triggers

Action-Reaction

Resulting Invasion

