Psocids or booklice are commonly encountered stored products pests in more humid parts of the country. These are tiny, pale-colored insects that resemble minute termites. Adults are about 1 mm long and wingless. They are flattened from top to bottom and have enlarged hindlegs.

Psocids require relatively high humidity to survive and thrive. Optimal humidities range between 75% and 95%. However, they can live and reproduce at humidities as low as 40%.

Psocids may also be common in homes, particularly in kitchen cupboards and storage areas. The common name booklouse comes from the fact that booklice are relatively easy to see on the pages of books, where they commonly feed on mildews growing on the paper (especially on books stored in attics or other non-air-conditioned rooms).

These insects are difficult to control because of the long adult life expectancy, ability to survive for considerable periods in adverse conditions without food, their fast population growth and asexual reproduction. Additionally, some species are resistant to residual insecticides and particularly the fumigant phosphine. Overall, the best way to limit their populations is to substantially lower the humidity, and/or moisture content in the infested area or materials.

In California the only regions likely to have consistent psocid problems indoors are along the coast where ambient humidities are consistently higher than they are inland, east of the coastal mountains. This is particularly good for museum collections and exhibits in inland institutions. However, climate-controlled buildings throughout the state tend to have humidities below 40%. In homes humidities are more variable and can be higher if there are large numbers of indoor plants, aquariums and other sources of moisture.