

## Household Pests

### Introduction:

Pests are animals that are a nuisance for humans and plants. They affect other organisms in different ways:

1. By feeding on our food
2. By biting or stinging us
3. By transmitting diseases
4. By damaging our clothes and home
5. By damaging livestock and plants

### **Common pests**

- Houseflies
- Mosquitoes
- Insects
- Rats
- Cockroaches

### **Houseflies**

They are normally found in areas where food is left uncovered. Flies are responsible for the spread of many diseases. They consume dead and decaying matter and so are able to collect and transmit many germs in their saliva and on their bodies. If the fly moves then it takes the germs along with it and might contaminate another food source. Diseases such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery are transmitted by flies.

### **Mosquitoes**

The adult mosquito is equipped with a sucking mouth part which is able to pierce the skin of animals and obtain blood for food. Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water whether in ponds, swamps or any other container that has water. To get rid of these pests it is important to replace pots with fresh water regularly and to cover these containers with lids.

The *Anopheles* mosquito spreads malaria. The *Aedes* mosquito spreads yellow fever and the *Culex* mosquito spreads encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

### **Cockroaches**

They are normally found in dark, warm areas, and so can be found in drawers and cupboards. They attack all types of food material and in the process contaminate food by passing on bacteria and other harmful substances.