

MONITORING GUIDELINES

Case-making Clothes Moth

Tinea pellionella

Description

Adults: Up to 1/3 inch long with shiny grey to brown with 1-3 tiny spots on wings. Has a small tuft of brown hairs on top of head

Eggs: Oval, ivory in color and 1/24 inch long

Larvae: Creamy white, black head capsule, ½ inch long, found within a silken case that it carries.

Pupae: Pupal cases whitish; often patterned with colored fibers; sometimes hidden in fabric or fur; up to ½ inch long

Damage and Detection

Granular frass the size of ground pepper can be found in, on and under fabric, furs, taxidermy mounts, hanging clothes in closets, rugs, carpets, and upholstered furniture. Larvae damage woolens, silks, furs and materials made with hair and feathers. Larvae can feed from short white webbing tunnels, but these are not always present. Pupal cases can be found on surface or within pile of carpet and rugs or underneath these materials. The use of pheromone traps and inspections can determine location and degree of infestation.

Life Cycle

Adult moths live for 15-30 days where upon mated females can lay 40-50 eggs singly or in groups. Eggs hatch in 4-10 days in summer months and up to 30 days in winter. Larvae feed and become mature in 35 days or as long as 30 months depending on food quality, temperature and humidity. Pupation will occur in infested materials. Adults will emerge from the pupae in 8 to 40 days depending on temperature.

Lure

BULLET LURE® - Contains sex pheromone to attract male moths. Effective duration of attraction is 6-8 weeks.

Lure Storage

Keep unopened lures in cool storage (less than 60° F) or place in freezer for extended storage. Lures can remain frozen for up to 12 months to retain their full effectiveness for use afterwards. Shelf life of lures at room temperatures is 6 months.

Trap Designs used with Lure

No Survivor hanging traps are diamond shaped sticky traps that can be hung from many locations. This design is the preferred trap for this moth that flies well.

Trap Placement Techniques

Timing - Traps can be placed year round but should be in greater numbers during the summer.

Density - One to two traps per room that contains materials susceptible to attack.

Location - Place hanging traps at 4 feet above ground or lower. Place in clothes closets (hanger bar, shelves, floor) or warm, dark, quiet areas such as behind couches, or areas where susceptible materials are present, stored or displayed.

Trap and Lure Maintenance

Traps must be replaced when filled with moths or become dusty. Traps may remain sticky for many months. Lures must be replaced every 6-8 weeks. The old lure can be left in the trap.

Expectations and Interpretations

1 moth per trap per week -- Inspection of materials susceptible to attack should be carried out.

3-5 moths/ trap per week -- Serious damage is likely on a single item or location in the area of the trap.

10 + moths/trap per week – Serious wide spread damage has occurred in the room or storage area.

Important Notes:

Large numbers of moths require other means of control and management to eradicate infestations.

Traps may catch sufficient number of males to prevent females from becoming fertile. Female moths however, may actively fly around and not be attracted to the traps.