



Casemaking Clothes Moth

Tinea pellionella

Description

Adults: Up to 8 mm (0.3 inches) long with shiny grey to brown 1-3 small spots on wings. Has a small tuft of brown hairs on top of head.

Eggs: Oval, ivory in color and 1 mm (0.04 inches) long.

Larvae: Creamy white, black head capsule, 13 mm (0.5 inches) long, found within a silken case that it carries.

Pupae: Pupal cases are whitish; often patterned with colored fibers; sometimes hidden in fabric or fur; up to 13 mm (0.5 inches) long.

Life Cycle

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

Damage and Detection

Larvae damage woolens, silks, furs and materials made with hair and feathers. The primary means of detection is the presence silken cases that contain larvae. During pupation, the silken cases can be found hanging from vertical surfaces and under horizontal surfaces such as shelves or bottoms of furniture. These pupal cases can be also be found within piles of carpet and rugs or underneath these materials. 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. The use of pheromone traps and inspections can determine location and degree of infestation.

Corresponding Products from Insects Limited

- [Flat Traps and Bullet Lures \(IL-120\)](#)
- [Clothes Moth Bullet Lures Only \(IL-123\)](#)
- [Hanging NoSurvivor Traps and Bullet Lures \(IL-124\)](#)
- [Hanging NoSurvivor Traps and Bullet Lures \(IL-220\)](#)
- [Casemaking Clothes Moth Bullet Lures Only \(IL-223\)](#)
- [Flat Traps and Bullet Lures \(IL-225\)](#)

QUICK SCAN

	SIZE / LENGTH
Adult	0.3 inch (8 mm)
Eggs	0.04 inch (1 mm)

	COLOR RANGE
Adult	Grey to brown, spots on wings
Larvae	Creamy white, black head

	LIFE CYCLE
Egg-Adult	Emerge 8-40 days
Eggs	Hatch 4-10 days
Females	Lay 40-50 eggs

	FEEDING HABITS
Larvae	Prefer: woolens, silks, furs, and materials made with hair and feathers.

	INFESTATION SIGNS
	Silken cases that contain larvae hanging from surfaces. Pupal cases can also be found within piles of carpet and rugs.



Casemaking Clothes Moth Monitoring Guidelines

Lure

The species-specific Casemaking Clothes Moth BULLET LURE® is the recommended lure to use when monitoring for this insect. It contains sex pheromone to attract male moths.

The multi-species Clothes Moth BULLET LURE® can be used when multiple species of clothes moths are present, or a customer is unsure which clothes moth is causing damage.

Both types of pheromone lures have an effective duration of attraction is 90 days.

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 24 months or at room temperature for 12 months to retain their full effectiveness for use afterwards.

Trap Designs Used with Lure

NOSURVIVOR 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.

FLAT TRAPS are a low-profile sticky trap which are another option that should be placed on a flat surface when a hanging trap is not preferred by customers.

Trap Placement Techniques

Pheromone traps can be out placed year-round but are especially recommend when temperatures exceed 12.5°C (55°F). Floor pheromone traps like the Flat Trap are more effective at capturing casemaking clothes moth compared to hanging pheromone traps, however, hanging pheromone traps tend to stay clean longer and may allow for easier inspection. Place hanging pheromone traps 1.5 m (5 feet) above ground or at eye level to allow for easy inspection when monitoring traps. In areas such as a closet or home, place one or two pheromone traps per room. In commercial areas such as warehouses or museums, place pheromone traps 7.5–15 m (25–50 feet) apart to determine the presence or absence of casemaking clothes moths. Increase pheromone trap density to 4.5–7.5 m (15–25 feet) apart to help locate source of casemaking clothes moths. Keep pheromone traps 7.5 m (25 feet) away from exterior doors. Casemaking clothes moth pheromone traps are best utilized in areas that store items that contain natural fibers such as wool, hair, feathers, furs, and upholstered furniture (containing natural wools and leathers).

Trap and Lure Maintenance

Replace traps when glue is filled with insects or becomes dusty. Replace pheromone lures every 90 days. Replace all pheromone lures in a location at the same time. Do not cut the cap off the bullet lure. Do not stagger lure replacement over several weeks. Record date and number of catches to identify trending information.

Fun Facts

- Sometimes confused with the webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*) and brown dotted clothes moth (*Niditinea fuscella*).
- Other common names for the webbing clothes moth include common clothes moth and clothes moth.
- Like many clothes moth species, adult casemaking clothes moths do not eat. Their larvae are vivacious feeders and damage natural fibers.
- Casemaking clothes moths initiate flight at temperatures above 12.5°C (55°F).
- The pheromone that attracts casemaking clothes moths also attracts other moth species including: Webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*) and Brown dotted clothes moth (*Niditinea fuscella*).