



COMMAND PEST CONTROL

Information sheet number 25 The Case Bearing Clothes Moth



Appearance:

The adult is somewhat smaller at 6mm long and is more brownish than the common clothes moth, and has 3 dark spots on the wings, but the spots become less discernible if the wing scales are worn off. Hind wings are smaller, lighter, and fringed with hair and scales. The males are smaller and lighter in colour than the females, and are active fliers. The females are sluggish, and fly only for short distances. The first thoracic segment of the larva, at first brown, later becomes black, and is divided by a longitudinal band. It can reach 10mm when full grown.

Breeding:

Females live about 30 days and lay 100 to 300 eggs. The larva stage lasts 50 or more days, and the pupal stage is passed in the case or cocoon. There are about 2 generations a year. Rarely will the larva spin a web directly on the material on which it is feeding, but will usually attach its case to the material by means of silken threads. Pupation takes place within the case after both ends have been sealed with silk. There were found to be 3 or 4 generations a year at 26 °

Food:

Keratin which is found in hair, fur or feathers. Silk is also eaten.

Where do Case bearing clothes moths live?

Folds and dark places are preferred; sometimes the larva will leave the tube to seek a better food source. The excreta or frass is sometimes mistaken for eggs. Areas stained with urine or soiled with organic material are favoured more than clean fabrics. The first signs of this moth are usually reports of grains of rice-like pupal cases on carpets.

Damage:

Fibres are destroyed when the larva takes several bites from the stump moving onto the next stump and it destroys more than it eats. It can pass into a resting phase if food is scarce. There is another closely related species known as the Common Clothes Moth.

For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049