



COMMAND PEST CONTROL

Information sheet number 24 - The Common Clothes Moth



Appearance:

Size 1-12mm long usually 5-7mm and the adult moth is golden brown in colour.

Breeding:

Eggs - 40-50 laid singly but sometimes they are deposited in ones and twos. Laying takes place at one day but sometimes over a period of weeks after which the female moth dies. The eggs are very small and are 1mm long and are quite sticky when first deposited. They are deposited into folds, seams, or between fibres. Hatching takes place after 4-10 days.

Larva - cream white in colour with a golden – brown head and its body is sparsely bristled. It lives in an open ended silken tube where it feeds all the time. Sometimes sheets of silk accompany tunnels. It can reach 12mm in length. Development can be from 35 days to 2.5 years.

Pupa - is contained within a silken cocoon incorporating frass and fibres. The adult moth hatches after pupation in 2-6 weeks

Food:

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

Where do Common 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.

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 Case-Bearing Clothes Moth.

For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049