



COMMAND PEST CONTROL

Information sheet number 21 - The White Shouldered House Moth



Appearance:

7-9 mm long, pale gold wings flecked with dark brown, fine fringes of hairs at wing tips, antennae usually held tucked along body, it has a very distinctive white head and shoulders. The larvae grow up to 14mm. The pupae are light brown and are found in a silky cocoon.

Breeding:

200 matt white elongated eggs laid in groups in vicinity of larval food material, the eggs hatch at a preferred temperature of 30°C in 7-25 days and an RH above 80%. Larvae reach full size in 6 weeks at 25°C and up to 5 months at low temperatures. They migrate away to pupate in silk tunnels often amongst food material and sometimes on walls and in the fabric of building, the adult moths hatch some 5 weeks later and live a further 2-3 weeks.

Food:

Any stored cereal foodstuff, material originating from birds nests, textiles, soft furnishings, carpets and furs.

Where do White shouldered house moths live?

Sometimes found in sparrow, starling and pigeon nests. They are a major textile pest, often found in clothes collections, soft furnishings and with tapestries. Occasionally it is found in food factories and grain stores.

Damage:

Often evident to carpets, rugs, furs, wool fabric and clothing. They are very destructive and the larvae often eat small holes in materials.

For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049