



# Webbing Clothes Moth

*Tinea pellionella*

## Description

**Adults:** Up to 8.5 mm (0.3 inches) long with shiny golden scales on wings. Webbing clothes moth are one color and do not have spots.

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

**Larvae:** Creamy white, dark brown head capsule, 13 mm (0.5 inches) long

**Pupae:** Pupal cases whitish; sometimes hidden in fabric or fur; up to 13 mm (0.5 inches) long.

## 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 warmer months and up to 30 days in cooler months. 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.

## 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 when rips or tears expose stuffing.. Larvae damage woolens, 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.

## 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 \(IL-124\)](#)
- All Beetle Trap with Bullet Lures, Dermestid Attractant, and Hide Beetle Lures (IL-2900)

## QUICK SCAN

### SIZE / LENGTH

Adult 0.3 inch (8.5 mm)

Eggs 0.04 inch (1 mm)

### COLOR RANGE

Adult Long, shiny golden scales on wings

Larvae Creamy white, dark brown head

### LIFE CYCLE

Adults Live 15-30 days

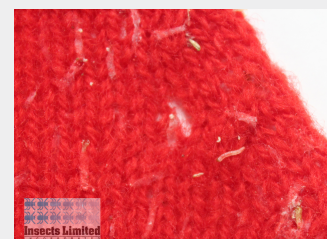
Eggs Hatch 4-10 days

### FEEDING HABITS

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

### INFESTATION SIGNS

Pupal cases can be found on surface or within pile of carpet and rugs or underneath these materials.



# Webbing Clothes Moth Monitoring Guidelines

## Lure

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

## Lure Storage

Keep unopened lures in cool storage less than 16°C (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

FLAT TRAPS are a low-profile sticky trap. This design is the preferred trap for this moth that does not fly well and would prefer to land on a flat surface and walk or jump to its destination.

NOSURVIVOR traps are diamond shaped sticky traps that can be hung from many locations. These devices should be used as an when utilizing flat traps is not an option and should be hung using the twist ties provided.

## 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 webbing 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 webbing clothes moths. Increase pheromone trap density to 4.5–7.5 m (15–25 feet) apart to help locate source of webbing clothes moths. Keep pheromone traps 7.5 m (25 feet) away from exterior doors. Webbing 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

- Similar species include the casemaking clothes moth (*Tinea pellionella*) 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 webbing clothes moths do not eat. Their larvae are vivacious feeders and damage natural fibers.
- Webbing clothes moths initiate flight at temperatures above 12.5°C (55°F).
- The pheromone that attracts webbing clothes moths also attracts other moth species including: Casemaking clothes moth (*Tinea pellionella*) and Brown dotted clothes moth (*Niditinea fuscella*).