



Brown-Dotted Clothes Moth

Niditinea fuscella

Description

Adults: Adults are 7-8 mm (0.3 inches) long with a wingspan of 14 mm (0.625 inches) long. Forewings range in color from dull brown-grey to shiny gold flecked-with brown and bear three large blackish-brown dots each. The base of the forewing is also marked with a dark spot or band. Hind wings are a silvery white and are surrounded by a long-haired fringe, like other moths in the family Tineidae. The body is dull brown, and the head bears a tuft of reddish-brown or brown-grey hair.

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

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

Pupae: Pupal cases are formed within the food source and use material from the actual food. These are roughly the same length as the adult moth.

Life Cycle

The precise life cycle of this moth is poorly understood. It is likely that it shares some similarities to other moths in the family Tineidae. (See ID sheet for webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*) and case making clothes moth (*Tinea pellionella*) for potential life cycle information.

Damage and Detection

Only larvae cause damage. Larvae feed on dried animal and plant material, most often in bird nests and poultry houses, and infrequently on cloth and fiber products. Outdoors, they are found in bird nests, leaf litter from fallen leaves, and decorative wood mulch around structures. Indoors, they can be found occasionally throughout the structure but more often in basement and attic spaces. Because they are usually present outdoors, they are found in greater abundance in warmer months, and will be found in monitoring traps less frequently in cooler months.

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 Lure (IL-2900)

QUICK SCAN

| | SIZE | / | LENGTH |
|-------|-------------|---|----------|
| Adult | 0.03 inches | | (7-8 mm) |
| Eggs | 0.04 inches | | (1 mm) |

| COLOR RANGE | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Adult | Brown-grey to shiny gold |
| Larvae | Creamy white, dark brown head |

| LIFE CYCLE |
|---|
| Precise life cycle of this moth is poorly understood. |

| FEEDING HABITS |
|--|
| Only larvae cause damage. Feed on dried animal and plant material. |

| INFESTATION SIGNS |
|---|
| Usually present outdoors is bird nests, leaf litter, and decorative wood mulch. |



Brown-Dotted 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 which are another option that should be placed on a flat surface when a hanging trap is not preferred by customers.

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 placed out year-round but are especially recommend during warmer months when temperatures exceed 12.5°C (55°F). 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 brown-dotted clothes moth. Increase pheromone trap density to 4.5–7.5 m (15–25 feet) apart to help locate source of brown-dotted clothes moth. Keep pheromone traps 7.5 m (25 feet) away from exterior doors. Brown-dotted clothes moths pheromone traps are best utilized in areas that store items that contain natural fibers and stored foods such as wool, hair, feathers, furs, upholstered furniture (containing natural wools and leathers), food, grains, seeds, spices, nuts, dried fruit, animal feed, or pet food.

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 webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*) and casemaking clothes moth (*Tinea pellionella*).
- Other common names include European house moth, poultry house moth, and common clothes moth.
- Like many clothes moth species, adult brown-dotted clothes moths do not eat. Their larvae are vivacious feeders and damage natural fibers, fungus, and stored products.
- Brown-dotted clothes moths initiate flight at temperatures above 12.5°C (55°F).
- The pheromone that attracts brown-dotted clothes moths also attracts other moth species including:
- Webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*)
- Casemaking clothes moth (*Tinea pellionella*)