



Technical Bulletin for: **INDIAN MEAL MOTH**



Plodia interpunctella (Hübner) • Lepidoptera, *Pyralidae* • PLOINT



30 day Septum not required with BugEnd™ Trap

DISTRIBUTION	Household and stored product pest. Worldwide. Also outdoors in warm climates.
HOSTS	Stored food products in households, warehouses, food production and distribution channels. Infests grain products, seeds, dried fruit, dog food, bird seed, dried mushrooms and spices. Also supermarkets, breweries, bakeries.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	Brown forewings with a pale basal half and a darker half toward the margin. The hind wings are white with brown veins. Wingspan about 10 mm.
Larvae	Off-white, but has been observed to be pink, brown or almost greenish, depending on the food source. The mature larvae are about 12 mm long. Instars: 5-7.
Eggs	Grayish white and range in length from 0.3 to 0.5 mm.
LIFE HISTORY	A life cycle is completed in 27 to 305 days, depending on temperature. A single female can lay up to 400 eggs, laid singly or in clusters and generally oviposited directly on the food source. The eggs hatch in 3-8 days at 20-30° C. Upon hatching, the larvae begin to disperse and within a few hours can establish themselves in a food source. The larvae can complete their development in 6-8 weeks at temperatures from 18-35° C. The pupal stage (in silken cocoon or unprotected) lasts 8-20 days at 20-30° C. Pupation takes place away from the infested material.

MONITORING INFORMATION

TRAP TO USE	Wing  or BugEnd™ (lure not required) 
MONITORING STRATEGY	Place baited traps around pantry, dog food, or food/grain storage. Change the trap and lure every 4 weeks or more frequently depending on dusty conditions. Traps can be used for control of low-level infestations if re-infestation sources are managed.
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Elimination and exclusion are key elements in controlling pest populations of this moth. All infested food must either be discarded or treated. Any susceptible food source should be placed in sealed containers. Dog food and bird seed may be overlooked as infestation sites, and these items should also be kept in sealed containers. All stored food products brought home from the grocery store should be examined for the tell-tale “white worms” and webbing. Freezing the product for several days has proven to be an effective control measure. Heating in an oven or microwave also kills larvae and eggs.

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