






Technical Bulletin for: Indian Meal Moth

Plodia interpunctella (Hübner) • Lepidoptera, Pyralidae • PLOINT



DISTRIBUTION	Worldwide pest of stored products and food products
HOSTS	Feeds primarily on stored food products
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	Adults are small, about 9 mm in length with a wingspan of about 16 mm. Body color is gray with a rusty brown wing tip.
Larvae	Larvae are usually off-white. However, but has been observed to be pink, brown or almost greenish, depending on the food source. The mature larvae are about 12 mm in length.
Eggs	Eggs are grayish white and are 0.3 to 0.5 mm in length.
LIFE HISTORY	A typical life cycle takes between forty and fifty-five days. While the potential exists for up to nine generations per year exists, cool temperatures during winter usually results in fewer generations. Under ideal conditions, Indian meal moths can complete an entire life cycle in approximately four weeks. Females lay between 100 and 300 eggs on food material. Larvae will begin to hatch in two to fourteen days, depending on environmental conditions. The larval stage lasts from two weeks to one year. When mature, larvae spin a silken cocoon and transform into light-brown pupae. Adults emerge in four to thirty days, mate, and females lay the next generation of eggs. Adults live from five to twenty-five days.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Z,E-9,12-14Ac on a Red Rubber Septum. Lure Longevity: Four (4) weeks.	
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap	 
MONITORING STRATEGY	Place traps near the food source. Do not use too many traps – 1 or 2 per room is sufficient. Using too many traps will confuse moths and reduces trap effectiveness. Monitor traps closely and replace as needed.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Store dry and bulk food into a tight fitting container. Clean cupboards and shelves on a regular basis. Clean used and old containers with soap before using for food storage.	

Alpha Scents, Inc.
insect monitoring systems

Alpha Scents, Inc., 360 S. Sequoia Pkwy. Canby, OR 97013
TEL: 503-342-8611 • FAX: 314-271-7297 • sales@alphascents.com • www.alphascents.com