

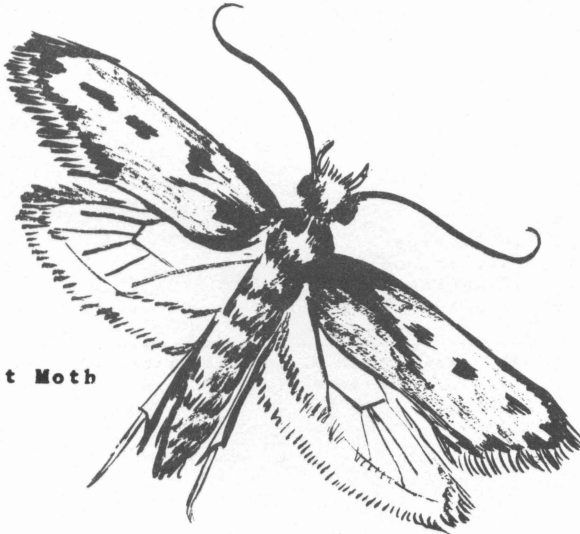
CLOTHES MOTHS

By

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Life History and Habits

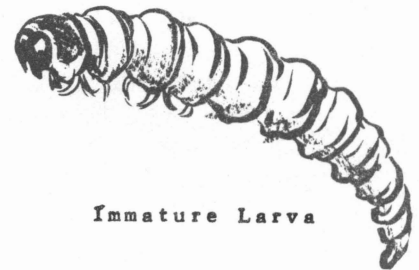
Most dwellings are infested by clothes moths, regardless of the location. Their abundance is influenced by the temperature and humidity in the house and the thoroughness of house cleaning.



Adult Moth

The clothes moths that are ordinarily troublesome are small and have a wingspread of about half an inch. The webbing clothes moth is uniformly yellowish or buff-colored; the case-bearing clothes moth is similar in color but has indistinct dark spots on the wings.

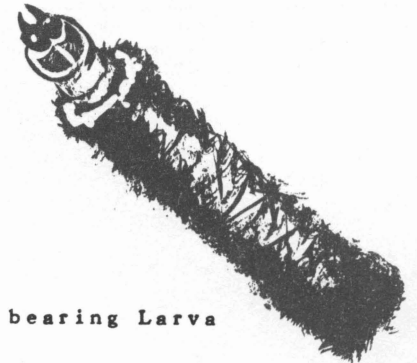
The moths fly lazily in darkened corners, are not attracted to lights, and usually conceal themselves in dark folds of clothing, cracks, and other dark places. The parent moth does not eat. Each female may deposit about 100 eggs which are loosely attached to the host and hatch in from a period of three



Immature Larva

or four days to three or four weeks depending on the temperature.

The newly hatched larva immediately starts feeding and spinning a shelter of silken threads in which it conceals it-



Case bearing Larva

self. Clothes moths require from about fifty days to three years to complete their development; that is, through the egg, larval, and pupal stages. Most of this time is spent in the destructive larval stage.

Clothes moths feed upon animal substances such as wool, hair, fur, feathers, and a wide range of commodities manufactured from these materials.

Control

Spray the interior of closet walls, particularly around the baseboards and edge of the floor, with five per cent DDT. This offers the housewife a simple and effective means of protecting garments from flying adults. Remove clothes before spraying so walls can be thoroughly treated.

Sweaters and other woollens which are to be stored for several months in dresser drawers may be protected by spraying the drawers thoroughly with five per cent DDT. The garments also may be lightly dusted on both sides with five per cent DDT dust. Care should be taken to prevent the introduction of larvae or eggs on the material to be stored first by dry-cleaning them. DDT has no fumigation action and kills only on contact or

by consuming it.

Furs or feathers may be dusted lightly with DDT. The powder can be easily shaken out before garments are worn.

Carpets and rugs can be treated with five per cent DDT dust or spray. Apply the material liberally under the carpet on top of the pad. A light application should also be applied to the top side.

Dry cleaning kills all forms of moths at the time of treatment, but does not impart resistance. Garments placed in paper bags, so sealed to prevent re-infestations, will remain free from moths indefinitely.

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