

STORED PRODUCT MOTHS

MEDITERRANEAN FLOUR MOTH

Occurs in nuts, chocolate, seeds, beans, biscuits, dried fruits, and stored foods of many kinds. The adult moth has a wingspan of less than 1", with dirty white hind wings and pale gray forewings, with black wavy bars. It moves in characteristic rapid zig-zag fashion. The larva is white or pinkish, with a chitinized head, and is 1/2 to 2/3" long. In warm areas this moth's life cycle may be completed in 4 to 6 weeks, resulting in 6 broods per year.

INDIAN MEAL MOTH

Very general feeders, they occur in grain, grain products, dried fruits, seeds, graham crackers, chocolate, powdered milk, candies, etc. The adult moth has a wing span of 5/8" with a broad grayish band across bronzy appearing wings. The larvae are dirty white or pinkish and about 2/3" long. Since the larvae migrate as they mature, they can quickly spread throughout a structure.

ANGOUMOIS GRAIN MOTH

Occurs in barley, rye, corn, oats, rice, and various seeds. It also prefers damp grain if available. It attacks grains in storage as well as in the field. It is active at low temperatures, and does considerable damage even in winter. Adults have a wing span of 1/2 to 3/4" with grayish wings.

CONTROL

As always, the keys to control lie in sanitation and disposal of infected products. Discard any suspected products, then clean and vacuum storage areas and shelves before arrival of the technician. After cleaning, the PCT will apply a residual insecticide treatment specifically labeled for these pests to the affected areas. This should destroy the life cycle of the present population, but long term control will depend on improved sanitation and limited product storage.