

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Patrick Clement, Flickr

Common Name: Case-making Clothes Moth

Scientific Name: *Tineola pellionella*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera: Tineidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Slender and white.● Darkened head and sclerotized plate on the prothorax.● Crochets present on abdominal prolegs.● Two ocelli on head.● Larvae construct a silken tube incorporating parts of the substrate.
Adult	7 - 8 mm 10 - 14 mm (wingspan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Narrow, shiny, golden-brown wings.● Three dark spots on each forewing.● Fringed hairs on wing margins.
Pupa (if applicable)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pupae are contained within the silken tube.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Larvae have chewing mouthparts. Adults do not feed.

Host/s: Case making clothes moth larvae feed on a variety of animal and plant based materials. Typical materials attacked include wools, feathers, down, fur, felts, leather, and hair. In addition, taxidermy mounts and mummified carcasses are targets. Larvae can also feed on plant based materials including almonds, saffron, and various herbs.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Damage is characterized by surface feeding on the material with occasional trenches and holes in extreme cases.

References:

Bennett, G. W., Owens, J. M., Corrigan, R. M., & Truman, L. C. (2016). *Truman's scientific guide to pest management operations*. Cleveland, OH: North Coast Media, LLC.

Field Guide to Common Texas Insects. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://texasinsects.tamu.edu/casemaking-clothes-moth/>

Jacobs, S. (2013, January). Clothes Moth (Department of Entomology). Retrieved from <https://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/clothes-moth>

Smith, E. H., & Whitman, R. C. (1992). *NPCA field guide to structural pests*. Dunn Loring, VA: NPCA.