



Brown-Dotted Clothes Moth

Niditinea fuscella

Description

Adults: Adults are 7-8 mm (0.3 inches) long with a wingspan of 14 mm (0.625 inches) long. Forewings range in color from dull brown-grey to shiny gold flecked-with brown and bear three large blackish-brown dots each. The base of the forewing is also marked with a dark spot or band. Hind wings are a silvery white and are surrounded by a long-haired fringe, like other moths in the family Tineidae. The body is dull brown, and the head bears a tuft of reddish-brown or brown-grey hair.

Eggs: Oval, ivory in color and 1mm (0.04") long

Larvae: Creamy white, dark brown head capsule, 13mm (0.5") long

Pupae: Pupal cases are formed within the food source and use material from the actual food. These are roughly the same length as the adult moth.

Life Cycle

The precise life cycle of this moth is poorly understood. It is likely that it shares some similarities to other moths in the family Tineidae. (See ID sheet for webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*) and case making clothes moth (*Tinea pellionella*) for potential life cycle information.

Damage and Detection

Only larvae cause damage. Larvae feed on dried animal and plant material, most often in bird nests and poultry houses, and infrequently on cloth and fiber products. Outdoors, they are found in bird nests, leaf litter from fallen leaves, and decorative wood mulch around structures. Indoors, they can be found occasionally throughout the structure but more often in basement and attic spaces. Because they are usually present outdoors, they are found in greater abundance in warmer months, and will be found in monitoring traps less frequently in cooler months.

Corresponding GreenWay Products

- [GreenWay Clothes Moth Trap and Lure \(GW101\)](#)

QUICK SCAN

SIZE / LENGTH

Adult	0.03 inch (7-8 mm)
Eggs	0.04 inch (1 mm)

COLOR RANGE

Adult	Brown-grey to shiny gold
Larvae	Creamy white, dark brown head

LIFE CYCLE

Precise life cycle of this moth is poorly understood.

FEEDING HABITS

Only larvae cause damage. Feed on dried animal and plant material.

INFESTATION SIGNS

Usually present outdoors in bird nests, leaf litter, and decorative wood mulch.



Brown-Dotted Clothes Moth Monitoring Guidelines

Lure

GreenWay Clothes Moth Trap with a separate lure is unique compared to other low cost traps. It contains a special formulated blend of pheromones that can attract the webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*), Casemaking clothes moth (*Tinea pellionella*), and the Brown-dotted clothes moth (*Niditinea fuscella*). The amount of pheromone dosed per lure is also typically higher than in mass produced traps. This gives a longer and more consistent capture rate as well as attraction from a further distance.

The lure is made from clean natural wool which is an attractant for female moths. The wool lure is also treated with natural odors to enhance female capture rates. No other trap has this combination of food attraction and natural food odors to enhance the capture of female moths. Traps without this special lure design are limited to random catches of female clothes moths.

Lure Storage

Keep unopened lures in cool storage less than 16°C (60°F) or place in freezer for extended storage. Lures can remain frozen for up to 12 months or at room temperature for 6 months to retain their full effectiveness for use afterwards.

Trap Placement Techniques

Capture male and reproductive female clothes moths by placing one GreenWay trap on the floor and one on the shelf in a closet or room with items containing wool, fur, feathers, or other animal hairs.

Trap and Lure Maintenance

Replace traps when glue is filled with insects or becomes dusty. Replace pheromone lures every 60 days. Replace all pheromone lures in a location at the same time. Record date and number of catches to identify trending information.

Fun Facts

- Similar species include webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*) and casemaking clothes moth (*Tinea pellionella*).
- Other common names include European house moth, poultry house moth, and common clothes moth.
- Like many clothes moth species, adult brown-dotted clothes moths do not eat. Their larvae are vivacious feeders and damage natural fibers, fungus, and stored products.
- Brown-dotted clothes moths initiate flight at temperatures above 12.5°C (55°F).
- The pheromone that attracts brown-dotted clothes moths also attracts other moth species including:
 - Webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*)
 - Casemaking clothes moth (*Tinea pellionella*)



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