Early Warning Monitoring Systems

Technical Bulletin

COMBI WCCM Clothes Moth Kit

The STORGARD monitoring system for the Webbing and Casemaking clothes moths is a cost effective method of detecting moth activity at the earliest possible stages. It utilizes combined synthetic sex pheromones that lure adult Webbing and Casemaking clothes moths into a specially designed trap that contains a sticky capture surface. Early detection of moth activity allows control measures to be employed before wool, natural fibers and hair based items are damaged by larvae.

Each STORGARD kit contains enough materials for up to 12 weeks of continuous monitoring, depending on the environmental conditions.

Pheromone Attractant

The pheromone in this STORGARD system attracts:

1. Casemaking clothes moth (Tinea pellionella)
2. Webbing clothes moth (Tineola bisselliella)

Pheromones are chemicals that adult insects produce to communicate with each other. The synthetic pheromone in the STORGARD system simulates the natural lure female insects use to attract adult males for mating purposes.

Trap Design

A STORGARD II or STORGARD III trap is employed in the STORGARD monitoring system for the Webbing and Casemaking clothes moth. Both have been used extensively for monitoring many stored product pests and were selected for the STORGARD system because of their efficacy in capturing flying insects.

When to Monitor

As a general rule, most insect development ceases at average temperatures below 12˚C. In heated residences, warehouses, facilities or in warm climates a year-around monitoring program is essential for early detection of Casemaking and Webbing clothes moths. Even in unheated storage areas in cold climates, it is important to recognize locations that may provide sources of heat.

Trap Density and Placement

A good industry standard when beginning a monitoring program is to place traps in a grid pattern at intervals of 15 to 18 metres (1 trap every 250 sq. metres). Tighten the grid as needed in order to pinpoint the source of an infestation. Other areas where traps should be placed are near suspected sources of susceptible wool, natural fibers and hair, such as in or around residences, apartment building, storage areas, trophy animal displays, museums, etc.

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Trap Height
The main criteria for selecting trap height are convenience for monitoring personnel and protection against damage.

Trap Inspection
Traps should be inspected at least once a week and twice weekly if an infestation is suspected. In some situations it may be desirable to check traps every day. Since moths are active at night, daily inspections should be made in the morning. Keep a record of the number of insects caught in each trap and the monitoring site.

Service and Storage
The STORGARD monitoring system requires a minimum of service. However, it is important to replace the pheromone attractants every 6 weeks, depending on environmental conditions, since their attractant properties eventually degrade. Remove dead insects, if so desired and debris from liners when traps are inspected. Replace the sticky capture surface when the pheromone is replaced, or more often under dusty conditions.

Please note: Like film, batteries and similar products, pheromone attractants should be stored in a cool place. For longest possible storage life, store pheromone caps in a refrigerator and keep them in their foil pouches.

STORGARD systems are also available for monitoring insects of the genera Trogoderma, Tribolium, Plodia spp., Lasioderma and Oryzaephilus. Their use is described in a separate bulletin.

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