

# *Plodia interpunctella* (Hübner)

## (Indianmeal moth)

Fam. Pyralidae

**General information:** Most important pest of processed and stored food products; can have several generations in one year, life cycle may continue year round in heated buildings; typical wing drawing (back half of the cover wing is rusty red)

**Infested products:** Dried fruits, nuts, cocoa beans, chocolate, cereals, cereal products, stored seeds, press residues/expeller of oilseeds, herbal drugs

**Related species:** *Ephestia/Cadra* spp. (larvae with dark spots at base of hairs, adult moths with different coloration)

**Total development:** 42 days at 25 °C and 65 – 75 % relative humidity, some 35 days at 30°C

Egg	Larva	Pupa	Adult (moth)
			
4 to 7 days	26 to 34 days	~ 6 to 10 days	~ 14 days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- approx. 0.5 mm long</li> <li>- diameter approx. 0.3 mm</li> <li>- white shiny sticky surface, to which substrate can adhere</li> <li>- one female lays up to 300 eggs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- up to 13 mm long</li> <li>- different color variations (white, light pink, yellowish/greenish) with brown head capsule</li> <li>- 5 moults</li> <li>- can overwinter in unheated buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- up to 9 mm</li> <li>- light brown; gets darker with ageing</li> <li>- pupation usually takes place outside the fodder substrate, in a silken cocoon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- up to 10 mm long, wingspan up to 20 mm</li> <li>- forewings are bicoloured: light gray to beige base and or reddish-brown to coppery-red outer portion</li> <li>- brown cross lines</li> <li>- wing coloration disappears with ageing (loss of scales)</li> </ul>

**Damage:** Damage is caused only by larvae; contamination by excrements, silky webs (clumping, may clog machinery), insect skins, larvae, pupae, dead moth

**Prevention:** Thorough cleaning and cleanliness in storage, short storage time; cold, dry and tight storage conditions; adequate insect tight packaging of products, inspection of products before storage

**Early detection:** Special monitoring traps for male moths based on pheromones (female sexual pheromones) and sticky traps; webs on cereal surfaces and pupae cocoons or in food package; visual inspection of flying moths

**Control:** Use of authorized pesticides (see database: [www.bvl.und.de](http://www.bvl.und.de)); in addition to insecticides, use of biological antagonists cleaning, freezing, heat treatment