ANGOUMOIS GRAIN MOTH

Sitrotroga cerealella (Olivier)

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DESCRIPTION

Angoumois grain moth can be a pest of corn in the field and storage. It is sensitive to cold temperatures and not common in the northern United States. The wingspan is 1/2 inch. The forewings are clay-yellow and without markings; the hindwings are gray. The rear edges of the forewings and hindwings are fringed. Adults do not need to feed. Young larvae are white except for their head which is dark. Full-grown larvae are usually yellowish white with a yellowish brown head. Larval size may vary depending on sex, food, and environment. Five mm (1/8 inch) is about average larval size.

BIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR

Eighty to 200 eggs are deposited on the outside of the kernel, grooves or holes made by other insects and the newly hatched larvae bore into the kernel. The larva remains inside the kernel until adult emergence. The number of eggs is dependent on food, season, or temperature. Two or three larvae may develop on a kernel of corn, but from other grains only one adult can be produced. There are three larval molts. The larva is dormant for four to five months during the winter in colder climates. There are generally four to five generations per year, although in heated warehouses there may be as many as 10 to 12 generations.

FOOD

Angoumois grain moths can be found infesting a variety of grain and food materials. They attack all cereal grains,
however are most often found in corn and wheat. It prefers damp grain in preference to old dry grain. It is the only storage pest that will attack standing grains in the field.

**CONTROL**

The only way to eliminate this pest is fumigation. Since it is an internal pest, residual control will only kill exposed adults. To kill the internal stages (larval & pupal), you must fumigate. Heating grain to 60˚C can kill larvae, however, this may decrease germination and baking quality of flour.