# *Plodia interpunctella* (Hübner)

# (Indianmeal moth)

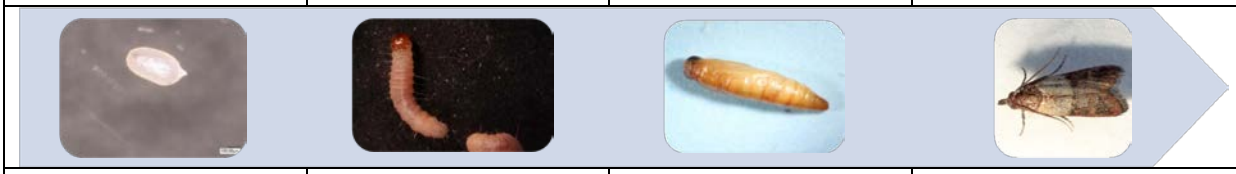
Fam. Pyralidae

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 |
| - approx. 0.5 mm long<br>- diameter approx. 0.3 mm<br>- white shiny sticky surface, to which substrate can adhere<br>- one female lays up to 300 eggs | - up to 13 mm long<br>- different color variations (white, light pink, yellowish/greenish) with brown head capsule<br>- 5 moults<br>- can overwinter in unheated buildings | - up to 9 mm<br>- light brown; gets darker with ageing<br>- pupation usually takes place outside the fodder substrate, in a silken cocoon | - up to 10 mm long, wingspan up to 20 mm<br>- forewings are bicoloured: light gray to beige base and or reddish-brown to coppery-red outer portion<br>- brown cross lines<br>- wing coloration disappears with ageing (loss of scales) |

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); in addition to insecticides, use of biological antagonists cleaning, freezing, heat treatment