

# Discover the Fauna of Our Campus

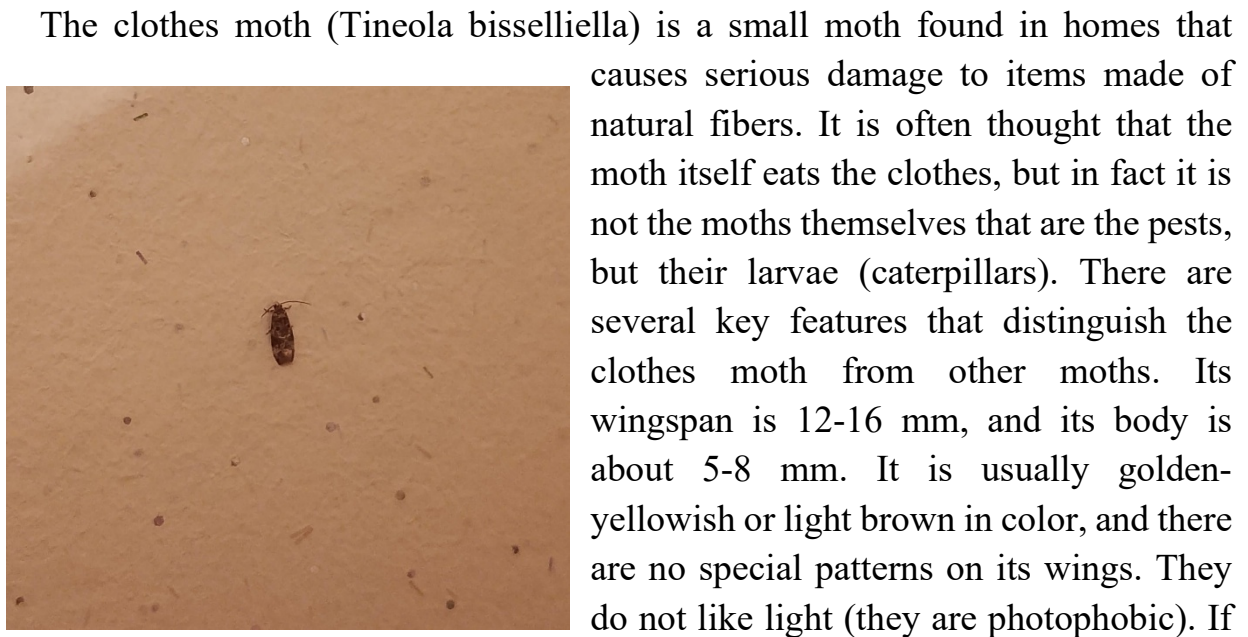
## Clothes moth

Order: Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

Family: Tineidae (Fungus moths or Tineid moths)

Genus: Tineola

Species: Tineola bisselliella (Common Clothes Moth)



The clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*) is a small moth found in homes that causes serious damage to items made of natural fibers. It is often thought that the moth itself eats the clothes, but in fact it is not the moths themselves that are the pests, but their larvae (caterpillars). There are several key features that distinguish the clothes moth from other moths. Its wingspan is 12-16 mm, and its body is about 5-8 mm. It is usually golden-yellowish or light brown in color, and there are no special patterns on its wings. They do not like light (they are photophobic). If you see a moth flying in a room, it is most likely a food moth. Clothes moths tend to hide in dark corners and tend to run rather than fly. The moth larvae feed on keratin protein. For this reason, they do not touch synthetic fabrics, but only target animal fibers:

- Woolen clothes and carpets.
- Natural silk.
- Fur products.
- Bird feathers (pillows and blankets).

- Even natural glues in the covers of old books. If there is a stain on your clothes (sweat, food residue), the moth will eat that part with greater appetite, because it gets additional vitamins and salts from there.

The life cycle of a moth consists of four stages. The female moth lays up to 100-200 microscopic eggs in dark and quiet places (folds of clothing). This is the most dangerous stage. The white larvae that hatch from the eggs immediately begin to feed.

Depending on the conditions, this stage can last from 2 months to 2 years. The larva weaves a cocoon around itself and turns into an adult.

The mouthparts of adult moths are not developed, they do not eat anything. Their only purpose is to mate and lay eggs. Getting rid of moths requires patience and a systematic approach. Always wash or dry clean clothes before putting them in the closet. Dirty clothes are an “invitation” for moths. Moth larvae do not tolerate bright sunlight and fresh air. Air out seasonal clothes periodically. The most effective way is to store wool and fur clothes that have not been worn for a long time in vacuum bags.

Moths avoid the smell of lavender. Place lavender sachets in the closet. The essential oils of this tree repel moths. It repels pests with its strong smell. Although it is a classic method, it is rarely used in modern times due to its health hazards and strong odor. It is used to disinfect the inner corners of closets. It attracts and captures male moths and breaks their reproductive chain.