

Wall moth - *Phereoeca uterella* Walsingham, 1897.

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The wall moth is best known to people in its larval stage, in which it builds a silken shelter like a pumpkin seed. The larvae crawl along the walls of houses, feeding on fabrics, hair, and cobwebs, among many others. Interestingly, moth adults have small mouths, which may mean they do not eat [1-7].

Wall moth is non-toxic and does not normally pose a threat to human health. Wall moths can penetrate the wood and damage the wood structure or pose a threat to the health of the tree. You need to be alert if you have it at home frequently. How to get rid of moths on walls: Open windows and ventilate or use a dryer or air conditioner to reduce indoor humidity. Empty the wardrobe and collect the moth from the wall. Spray the closet with insecticidal spray and return the clothes after fumigation and ventilation. Don't put stained clothes back in the closet. Clothes stained with sweat and other stains will be more attractive to wall moths. Corroded clothing must be washed again [1-7].

Close drawers and cabinet doors tightly. If they are too old to be closed, repair them, or replace them with new furniture. Camphor tablets can be placed in the cupboard. Increase cleaning frequency. Clean corners, hair, cotton wool and cobwebs in openings. Pay attention to the cleanliness of the carpet. Clean it as much as possible with a vacuum cleaner, which can effectively remove moths, even the smallest eggs hidden in the corners of the carpet and on the floor (Figure 1) [1-7].

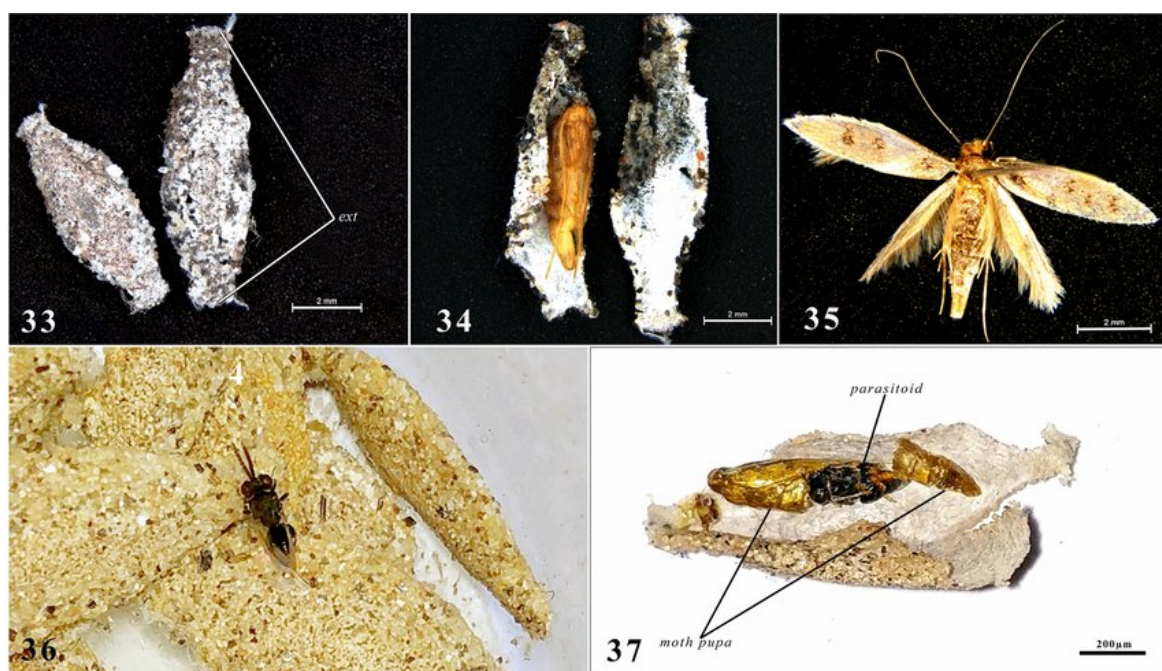


Figure 1. *Phereoeca uterella* (Walsingham, 1897). 33, larval case; 34, moth pupa within the case; 35, adult moth; 36 *Neohaltichella uterellophaga* sp. nov. adult female, host searching; 37, adult parasitoid in dissected moth pupa.

Source: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Phereoeca-uterella-Walsingham-1897-33-larval-case-34-moth-pupa-within-the-case_fig7_356190710.

The life cycle is holometabolic, that is, with egg, larva, pupa, and adult insect. Its reproduction is sexual. Females can lay, on average, 50 eggs in a period of 2 to 3 weeks. Males die soon after breeding. The eggs are composed of an adhesive secretion that adheres to the fibers, hatching a few days later. They measure approximately 0.5 mm. They can hatch into larvae between 4 and 10 days later, depending on environmental conditions and humidity levels [1-7].

Once in the larval form, they undergo 5 to 45 molts, depending on the temperature of the environment and the type of food that will be available. The larval phase is the longest lasting and it is only in this phase that the fiber destruction phase occurs. When the temperature rises and the larvae are well-fed, the pupal stage begins. The larvae will enter a cocoon and undergo metamorphosis, transforming into an adult, with wings. The period in which the wall larva is in pupa form lasts from 8 to 40 days. In adulthood, feeding no longer occurs. As an adult, your only goal is to reproduce. The adult stage can last from 4 to 30 days [1-7].

Control with natural products: Use a vacuum cleaner: use vinegar: To do this, put 100 ml of vinegar in a spray bottle and add 400 ml of water. Once this is done, spray the solution in all areas, including the corners of the walls. This mixture will keep moths away, as the vinegar serves as a natural repellent. Use lemongrass: Cut the leaves into small pieces and place them in bags or lids and then just spread the sachets inside the cabinets to repel insects [1-7]. How to get rid of moths on walls: Use a vacuum cleaner: use vinegar: To do this, put 100 ml of vinegar in a spray bottle and add 400 ml of water. Once this is done, spray the solution in all areas, including the corners of the walls. This mixture will keep moths away, as the vinegar serves as a natural repellent. Use lemongrass: Cut the leaves into small pieces and place them in bags or lids then just spread the sachets inside the cabinets to repel insects. Clove: Change the sachets every 3 months. This way, the clove smell will remain in the room long enough to eliminate the moths. Lavender Solution: Use a damp cloth to apply lavender oil to the furniture. Take the opportunity to spray a little oil near the corners of the walls [1-7].

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