

***Sitotroga cerealella*, the Angoumois grain moth/Paddy moth (Gelechiidae)**

An important pest of stored cereals particularly paddy, wheat, maize and sorghum. Adults infest the grains in the field itself (standing crops). Infestation during storage is largely restricted to the surface layer of bulk grain or grain bags.

Small delicate moths of (5-7 mm long), silvery-grey to grey-brown hind wings (with small black spot in the center) which taper to a point. The wings have a long fringe of fine hairs along the posterior edge. Female lays up to 200 eggs during her life span of 5-10 days. The eggs are attached to the grain. Hatched larva enters into the grain, develop to adult moth in 10-14 days and emerge through visible exit hole. Unlike other moths, *S. cerealella* does not create any webbing. Life cycle is completed in 4 weeks under optimum conditions of 30°C and 75% RH. (range 16-35°C and >30% RH.). Adult moths are good fliers and hence cross-infestation occurs easily.

