

Sunflower Moth

Homoeosoma electellum (Hulst)

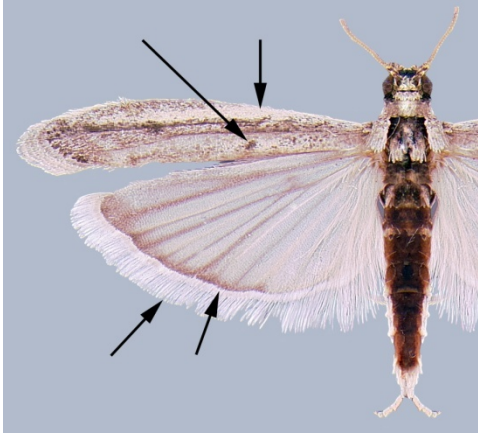


Image by P. Beauzay, NDSU Entomology



Image by L. Charlet, USDA-ARS

Adult Identification: Sunflower moth adults are small light-colored moths that hold their wings over the abdomen and appear cigar-shaped. Adults are about 8 mm to 12 mm in length. When the wings are spread, they can be recognized by having a pale leading edge of the forewing, a small black discal spot on each forewing, and a pale hind margin of the hind wing with a long fringe of hair. The black spots on the forewings can be seen when the moth is at rest, but may not be present on older individuals.

Monitoring for Adults: Sunflower moth overwinters in the southern United States and migrates northward through the Great Plains during the growing season. Moths reach North Dakota by late June to early July. Traps are used to monitor moth arrival and population build-up. A lure is added to the trap that contains a synthetic pheromone from the female moth that attracts the male. The moths are caught on the sticky surface of the trap bottom. The average number of males caught in the trap per night can be used as an indicator for the risk of significant infestation of the field.



Image by L. Charlet, USDA-ARS