



Fact Sheet No. 4

Royal Saskatchewan Museum Information Series
Conservation Section February 2004

Getting The Bugs Out

Integrated Pest Management(IPM)

Museums use IPM to keep insects under control. By sealing up the building, using insect traps, and regularly inspecting the collections for pests, we are able to take care of small infestations before they get out of control.

IPM at home

You can prevent pest problems in your home by becoming an expert at IPM. Regularly inspect your fur, wool and silk clothing, looking closely at seams, pockets and cuffs for signs of insects. You may find one of these clues to a problem:

- frass...bug excrement that looks like grains of sand or pepper
- larvae...immature insects that resemble maggots or caterpillars
- larval skins...discarded by the larvae as they grow, much like snakes shed their skins
- casings...a moth cocoon that looks like a small cigar-shaped wad of lint

Remove any sign of insects by vacuuming thoroughly. Then inspect again after a week and again in a month. Sometimes the vacuum misses the microscopic eggs. When they hatch, the cycle

begins all over again. Continue to inspect your stored clothing regularly. Consider sending valuable items to a commercial cold storage facility. Don't use mothballs or chemicals as these substances can damage your treasures as well as your health. And if the pests get out of control, quickly bag the affected items and inspect other materials in the vicinity. Call a pest control company or the Royal Saskatchewan Museum for advice.

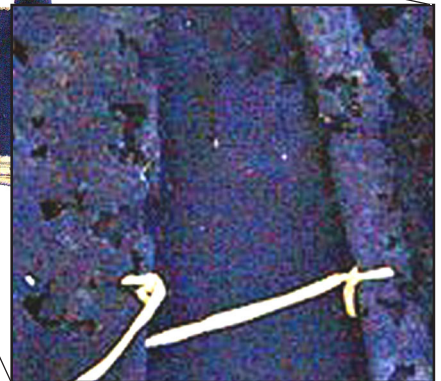
Here are two examples of pest damage.



Beetle-ravaged Moth



Moth holes in a wool jacket



Saskatchewan Culture, Youth and Recreation

This Museum Information Series highlights the research and other activities at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, including those in Curatorial, Exhibits, Education and Public Programs. To contact us: 2445 Albert St. Regina, SK. S4P 3V7 Phone: (306) 787-2815 Web site: www.royalsaskmuseum.ca

