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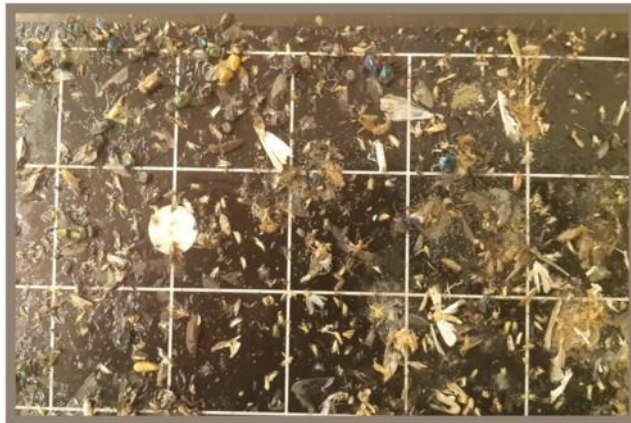
Interpreting Pheromone Trap Catches

Interpreting Pheromone Trap Catches

When you're using pheromone traps to monitor for stored product pests in food warehouses or processing facilities, it's important to know what your trap catches mean and when to initiate controls. Don't just base your actions on the total catch for all traps. It's the trends or patterns for each trap location that are important. Keep track of the catch for each trap over time so that you can detect a change in the pattern. There are no established rules or guidelines that will correlate your trap catches to actual infestation numbers. Use the numbers below as guides, come

into the facility or came in on pallets or packaging. (Exception for dermestid larvae: a catch of more than one dermestid larva in a week requires greater scrutiny of the area, and a catch of more than 2 means a probable infestation.)

- **A few (2-5) insects of the same species collected on a regular basis in the same location.** This catch probably means a small infestation. Increase the number of traps in this location and consider a product inspection.



up with your own based on your experience, or your customer may have action thresholds already in place for certain pests. A new catch or any change from your normal catch should tell you that some kind of additional action is necessary, even if it is only more frequent monitoring. The type of insect caught will also affect how you respond.

These guidelines assume that you have many pheromone traps in place, in a mapped grid pattern that covers all parts of the facility.

- **1-2 insects of the same species collected in a week at scattered locations** (not in the same traps each time) if this happens infrequently, then the catch is probably
- **Several (6-9) insects of the same species collected each week in the same location.** This catch indicates that a small to moderate infestation may be present. Trap numbers and monitoring frequency should be increased to identify the extent of the infestation. Initiate a product inspection.
- **Numerous (10 or more) insects of the same species collected in a trap.** This means that an active infestation is present and immediate action should be taken to isolate and control the particular stored product pest. Often, this results from an already infested pallet of material being brought into the warehouse. Pinpointing the

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incidental and not indicative of an ongoing infestation. Insects probably wandered

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source of such an infestation quickly will help control the spread of the infestation in the facility.

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