

Plaster bagworm (*Phereoeca praecox*)

Other common names: Household casebearer, Case-bearing clothes moth.

Distribution: Known from western Africa and Australia. In the U.S.: California.

Food Sources and Damage: Larval feeding was reported on insect fragments, spider webs, bird feathers, human and animal hairs. Due to its food habits the Plaster bagworm may become a household, storage or museum pest.

Field ID: Adult moths (wingspan up to 12 mm long) have grayish-brown forewings with distinctive black markings. Wings are fringed with long gray hairs. Females are larger than males.

Larva has a cream colored body with dark brown head and dorsal surfaces of thoracic segments. Flat, oval larval cases (up to 13 mm long) are made of silk (produced by larvae) and integrated particles of sand, hairs, insect remains, etc. Larvae can often be found pulling their protective cases behind inside and around buildings.

