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MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF *Ephestia elutella* (Hübner) (LEPIDOPTERA; PYRALIDAE) AND PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON ITS WINTER GENERATION IN IRAN[1]

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SUMMARY

In 1958 the first record of *Ephestia elutella* (Hübuer) from northwest provinces of Iran was reported by FREEMAN. Since then, it was collected from dried fruits and nuts from Tehran, Tabriz, Urmia, Naghadeh, Miandoab, Bookan and Arak.

In this paper, morphological characteristics of egg, larva, pupa and adult *E. elutella* is presented. Preliminary observations on life cycle of winter generation of this moth on stored barberry in laboratory conditions (25°c Temperature and 65 - 70% R. H.) was as follows :

The eggs hatched within 4- 5 days, larvae became fully grown in 32 days. Full grown larvae wandered for 2 - 5 days before enteriug diapause. They remained in silken cocoons for 35 days before pupation. Pupal stage lasts 2 - 3 weeks. The first adult moth of winter generation appeared in early February. It appears that in storage conditions of Iran. *E. elutella* produces at least 2 generations a year.

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