



**INSTRUCTION FOR BRACONIC WASPS
OF THE SPECIES HABROBRACON HEBETOR FOR
COMBATTING FOOD MOTHS**

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

The opened boxes with the braconic wasps (flour moth ichneumon wasps) should be placed in close proximity of food that is possibly or is already infested by moths. The braconic wasps are able to fly, so you do not have to place the boxes directly next to the area where you assume the food moths have laid their eggs. In order to achieve an effective result when combatting the moths, you have to take care that a certain minimum amount of flour moth braconic wasps are brought into action. It is recommended to use one package per 10 - 15 m². So if a room of 25 m² has been infested, two packages of flour moth braconic wasps should be used.

REMARKS ABOUT INFESTED FOOD SUPPLIES:

The flour moth braconic wasps of the species *habrobracon hebetor* only lay their eggs into the food moth larvae. The food moths infest dry groceries such as flour and flour products, rice, legumes, nuts, chips and salty snack-sticks, as well as in tea, coffee, spices and chocolate. Dry pet food and dried flowers or straw can also be affected.

The food is infested, irrespective of where it is stored. So, when placing the boxes with the braconic wasps, also remember to think about other storage places such as seldom used storage facilities for groceries, or even the drawer with sweets and chips in the living room. Decorations made of straw (such as dried flowers or Christmas decorations), should not be forgotten about.

STORAGE PERIOD:

At normal room temperature the braconic wasps (flour moth ichneumon wasps of the species *habrobracon hebetor*) will hatch during a period of two

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weeks, and will be active for one month. A successful implementation of the flour moth braconic wasps of the species *habrobracon hebetor* is possible at a temperatures from 12 to 39 °C. A temperature of 15°C should be achieved at least for a couple of hours a day. (Best you use a mini/max-thermometer!) To eliminate a food moth population of food moths completely, you should place new boxes three times in a row in the same spots.

STORAGE:

The boxes contain *habrobracon Hebetor* (braconic wasps, flour moth *ichneumon* wasps) which are living insects. They cannot be stored for a long period of time. The boxes can be stored for max. 7 days, before they are put into action. Then a good storage place is a cool to very cool and dark place such as the vegetable compartment of your fridge (4 - 8°C). Temperatures above 10 °C should be avoided during storage.

PRECAUTIONS:

Do not open the boxes with the beneficiaries before use at the infested areas and take care that are not damaged so that the braconic wasps cannot escape before you have placed them in the correct areas. Never use insecticides in your house or garden during the period of application! Otherwise the beneficiaries will be killed. Also do not use fragrance oil during this time. It is not necessary to “feed” the *habrobracon hebetor* (braconic wasps, flour moth *ichneumon* wasps)! They only feed on moths eggs. That is why they are the perfect biological protection against moths.