



cecropia moth

Hyalophora cecropia

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Saturniidae

FEATURES

The cecropia moth has a wingspread of five to six inches. Its antennae are feathery and are larger in the male than in the female. The body is rust-colored with some white on the abdomen. Wings are dark brown with one light eyespot surrounded by red and black borders per wing. The larva, or caterpillar, is blue-green with two rows of blue projections on the sides, two rows of yellow ones on the back and two rows of red ones on the thorax. The caterpillar grows to about four inches in length.

BEHAVIORS

The cecropia moth is a nocturnal insect that may be found statewide in Illinois. As an adult, it does not feed. The larva is a spiny caterpillar that eats the leaves of a number of tree and shrub species. It pupates in a cocoon of silk. The cocoon is attached to a twig.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.