

cecropia moth *Hyalophora cecropia*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Saturniidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The cecropia moth has a wingspan 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. There are red and white color bands and white teardrop-shaped marks, too. 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

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie Habitats

none

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