

polyphemus moth *Antheraea Polyphemus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Saturniidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The polyphemus moth is yellow-brown to red-brown and has an eyespot on each wing. Its wingspan is four to five inches. The feathery antennae are larger in the male than in the female. The large larva is green with a few spiny projections and dark markings.

BEHAVIORS

The polyphemus moth may be found statewide in Illinois. The adult does not feed. The larva eats the leaves of trees and shrubs. The pupa is formed in a leaf on the ground, where it overwinters. One generation per year is produced.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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