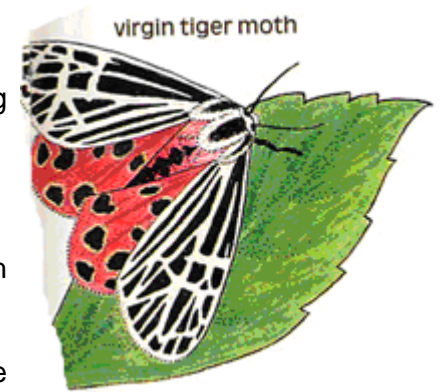




MOTH FUN FACTS



- NC has 174 species of butterflies, and 2,000-2,500 moths! That's 11 to 14 times as many moth species as there are butterflies.
- There is moth caterpillar that is carnivorous, the Ashen Pinion, *Lithophane antennata* which is a well-known predator of winter moths.
- Some tiger moths in the family Arctiidae are known to "jam" bat echolocation by producing sounds.
- The North Carolina Heritage Program lists 99 state concern moths mostly from the mountains, sandhills and coast.
- Many females of the Tussock family of moths don't have wings.
- The Hawk moth (Sphinx) is the worlds fastest flying insect attaining speed of over 50 kph
- Moth antennae are either feather like or a hair like filament.
- The Cecropia moth is North America's largest insect with a six inch wingspan.
- Moths have hairy bodies to help retain internal body temperature necessary for flight.
- Quite a few moths fly during the day, such as the Hummingbird Clearwing, Virginia Ctenucha and the Spear-Marked Black.
- In colder climates some moths can have a two year life cycle.
- Some moth caterpillars, such as the "lo" are covered with stinging hairs.
- Moths make up 80 percent of the order lepidoptera.
- A small group of moths are called "Bird Dropping" moths because -you guessed it- that's what they resemble when they are at rest.
- Moths navigate by two methods. They use the moon and stars when available and geomagnetic clues when light sources are obscured.
- Cloth Moths eat such things as wool, fur and other animal products. It is their ability to digest Keratin a protien found in these foods.
- Some moths pupate under ground. Such as many of the Sphinx moths.
- Moths heat up their flight muscles by vibrating their wings, since they don't have the radiant energy of the sun at their disposal to serve that purpose.
- The Luna moth is born without a mouth.....it never eats or drinks.
- Hummingbird moths wings beat 70 times per second.
- Pellet like caterpillar excrement is called "Frass".



- Male moths have larger antennae than females. Beneficial for detecting the pheromones released by females.
- Pheromones can be dispersed through the tibia segment of the leg, scales on the wings or from the abdomen.
- The Woolly Bear caterpillar we are all familiar with turns into.....the Isabella Tiger Moth.
- The Webworm caterpillars go into communal diapause.
- Moths are capable of migration but they do so over much smaller distances.
- Moths are active at different times of the night depending on species.
- Giant Silkworm Moths have a 1 year life cycle.
- Wing veins are useful for species identification - kinda like finger prints.
- The Clearwing family of moths resembles other flying insects like hornets, wasps and even Hummingbirds.
- Cecropia larvae grow to about 4" in length.
- Moths can produce as many as 10 broods per year.
- Feeding caterpillars can be in such large and concentrated numbers that you can actually hear them eat.
- Pheromones released by females can be detected by the males from as much as 8 kilometers away.
- Some Case Moth caterpillars (Psychidae) build a case around themselves that they always carry with them. It is made of silk and pieces of plants or soil.
- The caterpillars of some Snout Moths (Pyrallidae) live in or on water-plants.
- The females of some moth species lack wings, all they can do to move is crawl.
- The Morgan's Sphinx Moth from Madagascar has a proboscis (tube mouth) that is 12 to 14 inches long to get the nectar from the bottom of a 12 inch deep orchid discovered by Charles Darwin.
- Some moths never eat anything as adults because they don't have mouths. They must live on the energy they stored as caterpillars.
- Butterflies and moths hear sounds through their wings.
- To a moth the jingling sound of car keys sounds like a bat! In defence they will drop to the ground and hope to stay concealed.
- Thousands of tiny scales and hairs cover moths wings, not powder.
- Butterflies and moths both have an organ called the Johnston's organ which is at the base of a butterfly or moths antennae. This organ are responsible for maintaining the butterfly's sense of balance and orientation, especially during flight.
- A Cecropia moth has the ability to smell his mate up to 7 miles away with his feathery antennae.
- Moths have a low temperature threshold. Pinions and sallows can be flying when the air temperature was in the low 40's with snow on the ground!

