






















Species commonly confused with oak processionary moth (OPM) *(Thaumetopoea processionea)*

	Oak processionary moth <i>(Thaumetopoea processionea)</i>	Lackey moth <i>(Malacosoma neustria)</i>	Brown-tail moth <i>(Euproctis chryorrhoea)</i>	Buff-tip moth <i>(Phalera bucephala)</i>	Small Eggar moth <i>(Eriogaster lanestris)</i>	Vapourer moth <i>(Orgyia antiqua)</i>	Small Ermine moths <i>(Yponomeuta species)</i>
Hosts	Almost exclusively on oak. Can be found on other broadleaves during very heavy outbreaks only.	A wide range of broadleaf trees & shrubs including oak.	A wide range of hedgerow trees and in scrub, notably bramble-can utilise oak.	A wide range of broadleaf trees and shrubs including oak.	Blackthorn and hawthorn.	A wide range of broadleaf trees and shrubs including oak.	A wide range of broadleaf trees and shrubs but not on oak.
Larva	<p>April - June</p>  <p>* Human health risk! Irritating/toxic hairs</p> <p>Up to 45mm. Grey body and dark head- older larvae have a central dark stripe with white line either side. Clumps of long white hairs arise from orange warts along the length of the larva.</p>	<p>April - June</p>  <p>Up to 55mm. Distinguishable from OPM by their distinct orange and blue longitudinal stripes.</p>	<p>Over winter - May</p>  <p>* Human health risk! Irritating/toxic hairs</p> <p>Up to 45mm. Dark brown and hairy with white marks down the side and two characteristic orange-red warts at the rear.</p>	<p>July - October</p>  <p>Up to 80mm. Can resemble OPM because of abundant fine grey hairs but occur later in the season. Easily identified by their distinctly patterned yellow and black body.</p>	<p>May - July</p>  <p>Up to 45mm. Velvety-black body with red-brown marks bordered with white. Completely covered with fine brown hairs; some quite long.</p>	<p>May - August</p>  <p>Up to 40mm. Bluish grey body with red spots and a row of four distinctive pale yellow single brown tufts.</p>	<p>May - July</p>  <p>Up to 25mm. Eight very similar UK species. Larvae are hairless, creamy white with black markings.</p>
Nests/ webbing	 <p>White silken nests on trunks or branches. Nests darken with age and accumulation of shed skins and hairs; tennis ball sized or much larger.</p>	 <p>The larvae feed gregariously in a communal web or 'tent'. These are conspicuous and may exceed 30cm in length. Defoliation is often severe.</p>	 <p>Larvae feed gregariously creating a strong silken web or 'tent'. Defoliation is often severe.</p>	 <p>Buff-tip moth larva do not produce webbing material. Larvae cause noticeable defoliation.</p>	 <p>Larvae live and feed gregariously in silken webs. A rare species and localised across England as far as N. Yorkshire. Species is of conservation value.</p>	 <p>Larvae do not produce webbing material. Can cause noticeable defoliation and also damage to buds and flowers but infestations are rarely significant.</p>	 <p>Larvae produce webbing in spring and early summer that can be extensive draping over entire trees and hedgerows- defoliation can be severe.</p>
Adults	<p>July & August</p>  <p>30-32mm</p>	<p>Late July - September</p>  <p>30-40mm</p>	<p>July & August</p>  <p>37-42mm</p>	<p>May & early August</p>  <p>55-68mm</p>	<p>February & March</p>  <p>36-47mm</p>	<p>July - September</p>  <p>♂ 35-38mm ♀ wingless</p>	<p>July - August</p>  <p>15-15 mm</p>