

Moth identification chart

Six regional examples | Eastern United States, with a Mid-Atlantic focus | Online Field Guide

Compare wing shape, eyespots and patch placement. A resting moth may hide its hindwings.

1. Luna moth

Actias luna



Pale green wings; long hindwing tails

Adult male

2. Polyphemus moth

Antheraea polyphemus



Tan wings; very large hindwing eyespots

Adult; sex not assigned

3. Cecropia moth

Hyalophora cecropia



Dark wings; pale crescents and red-white bands

Adult female

4. Imperial moth

Eacles imperialis



Yellow wings; irregular purple-brown patches

Adult; sex not assigned

5. Rosy maple moth

Dryocampa rubicunda



Pink-and-yellow wings; small silk-moth build

Adult; sex not assigned

6. Giant leopard moth

Hypercompe scribonia



White wings; black spots and hollow rings

Adult; sex not assigned

1. Megan McCarty. CC BY 3.0.

2. Jack Gelinas.

3. Kugamazog-commonswiki. CC BY-SA 2.5.

4. Ben Sims.

5. Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren. CC BY 2.0. - 7715 – Dryocampa rubicunda – Rosy Maple Moth (20497044485).jpg.

6. Ben Sale from Stevenage, UK. CC BY 2.0. Leopard Moth (48251549462).jpg.

Comparison notes and photo credits

Moth chart companion | Original layout and wording by Online Field Guide

Moth	Habitat or nesting clue	Identification level	Adult activity
Luna moth	Woodlands; several hardwood hosts	Species candidate	Spring and summer
Polyphemus moth	Woodlands and edges; several tree hosts	Species candidate	Spring and summer
Cecropia moth	Woodlands and wooded gardens; several tree hosts	Species candidate	Late spring and early summer
Imperial moth	Woodlands; several tree hosts	Species candidate	Mainly summer
Rosy maple moth	Deciduous woodland; maple hosts	Species candidate	Late spring and summer
Giant leopard moth	Woodland edges, fields and gardens	Species candidate	Late spring and summer

The season column gives a broad adult flight period. Timing and the number of broods change with latitude and weather. Host plants refer to caterpillar food.

Photo credits and original file links

- 1. Luna moth:** Male Luna Moth, Megan McCarty141.jpg, by Megan McCarty. CC BY 3.0.
- 2. Polyphemus moth:** Antheraea polyphemus - iNaturalist photo 328610492, by Jack Gelinas.
- 3. Cecropia moth:** Hyalophora cecropia adult female sjh.JPG, by Kugamazog~commonswiki. CC BY-SA 2.5.
- 4. Imperial moth:** Eacles imperialis - iNaturalist photo 218186762, by Ben Sims.
- 5. Rosy maple moth:** - 7715 – Dryocampa rubicunda – Rosy Maple Moth (20497044485).jpg, by Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren. CC BY 2.0.
- 6. Giant leopard moth:** Leopard Moth (48251549462).jpg, by Ben Sale from Stevenage, UK. CC BY 2.0.

Identification references: Luna moth; Polyphemus moth; Cecropia moth; Imperial moth; Rosy maple moth; Giant leopard moth.

This chart compares regional examples; it is not a complete species key.