

# **Moth Trap Challenge**

## **Am I in your moth trap?**

### **Hebrew Character Moth**

**(March to May)**



**I am a furry moth with a distinctive black mark on each wing.**

**My length is between 1.5cm and 2 cm**



Actual sizes



**I like feeding on Sallow blossoms.**



**I lay my eggs on lots of different trees and shrubs. My green caterpillars are around between April and early July. Can you see their breathing holes (spiracles)?**



**The scientific name for a Hebrew Character Moth is *Orthosia gothica***



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# **Moth Trap Challenge**

## **Am I in your moth trap?**

### **Herald Moth**

**(March, April and October)**



**I have scalloped wings with a light double stripe across. I also have orange markings above. I spend the winter sleeping in sheds and cool dry places and wake up in the spring.**

**My length is between 2 cm and 3 cm.**



**Actual sizes**



**I lay my eggs on Willows and Poplars in the summer.**

**You can find my green caterpillars in on the trees between May and early September. They have 5 pairs of prolegs.**

**When they are large enough they turn into a black pupa.**



**In September they emerge as moths.**

**The scientific name of the Herald Moth is Scoliopteryx libatrix**



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# **Moth Trap Challenge**

**Am I in your moth trap?**  
**Large Yellow Underwing Moth**  
**(June to September)**



**I look a bit drab at first but my hind wings are bright yellow or orange.**

**My wing length is about 2cm to 2.5cm.**

Actual size



**My caterpillars feed on a variety of plants and grasses.**

**They are fat and chunky and roll into a ball if disturbed.**



**The scientific name for the Large Yellow Underwing is *Noctua pronuba*.**



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# **Moth Trap Challenge**

**Am I in your moth trap?**

**Light Emerald Moth**  
**(May, June and September)**



**I have a hooked reddish forewing tip and white bars across my wings.**

**My wing span is about 3.5cm to 5cm.**



Actual size

**There are other Emerald Moths but I am the one you are most likely to see.**

**My caterpillars eat a wide range of broad-leaved trees and shrubs. They are looper caterpillars and have a distinctive fringe of hairs along the underside.**



**The scientific name for the Light Emerald Moth is *Campaea margaritata*.**



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# **Moth Trap Challenge**

## **Am I in your moth trap?**

**March Moth**  
**(February to April)**



**I fly early in the year. My wings fold on top of one another when I am at rest. I am a male. Unlike most moths my female does not have any wings.**

**My length is between 1.5cm and 2 cm**



Actual sizes



**The female emerges from her pupa and climbs a tree and waits for her mate before she lays her eggs on trees like Hazel, Blackthorn and Oak in the spring.**



**You can see her spiracles. She uses them to breathe with, just like her caterpillars.**

**The scientific name of the March Moth is  
*Alsophila aescularia***



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# **Moth Trap Challenge**

## **Am I in your moth trap?**

### **Nut-tree Tussock Moth (May to June)**



**I am a furry moth with  
brown or grey markings.  
I have stripey legs.**

**My length is between  
1.5cm and 2 cm**



**Actual sizes**



**I lay my eggs on trees like Hazel, Birch and Hornbeam in the spring. I also use other large trees.**

**You can find my caterpillars in on the trees between May and early July. They use silk to join the edges of leaves to form a tube where they can hide.**

**They come out at night to feed. They have long white hairs and two orange tufts at the back and one at the front. Their bodies can be either light or dark.**



**The scientific name of the Nut-tree Tussock Moth is Colocasia coryli.**



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# Moth Trap Challenge

Am I in your moth trap?  
Oak Beauty Moth (March to April)



**When I sit on the trunk of an oak tree I blend in completely. I am a male and have feathered antennae.**

**My length is between 2cm and 3cm**



Actual sizes





**I lay my eggs mainly on Oak trees in the spring. I also use other large trees.**

**You can find my caterpillars on the trees between May and early July. They look like small twigs.**

**When they are large enough they crawl down the tree and turn into pupae. They stay like this all autumn and winter and emerge in the spring.**

**The scientific name of the Oak Beauty is *Biston strataria*.**



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# Moth Trap Challenge

Am I in your moth trap?

Pale Tussock Moth (May to June)



I have a hairy head and legs. If I am a male I have feathered antennae.



My length is between 2cm and 3cm from front to back.



**I lay my eggs on many types of trees and shrubs which lose their leaves in the winter. I do not use evergreens.**

**You can find my green fluffy caterpillars on the trees between July and early October. They have yellow tufts sticking out and a red horn.**



**In October they turn into pupae until it is time to emerge as a moth in May.**

**The scientific name of the Pale Tussock Moth is *Calliteara pudibunda*.**



# Moth Trap Challenge

Am I in your moth trap?

Peach Blossom Moth (May to June)



I often sit with my wings folded so they seem to stick up at the back and my length is around 2cm from front to back.



actual size

**I lay my eggs on brambles preferably on those in shady areas. You can find my brown caterpillars eating the bramble leaves between July and early October.**



**They have several humps on their backs and as they get larger they hide in the leaf litter by day and feed at night.**



**This is the largest they get.** 

**The scientific name of the Peach Blossom Moth is *Thyatira batis*.**



# **Moth Trap Challenge**

**Am I in your moth trap?**  
**Peppered Moth**  
**(May to June)**



**My black and white markings make me hard to see against the bark of a tree.**

**Sometimes I am much darker, almost all black.**

**My wingspan is between 4cm and 6 cm**



**Actual sizes**



**I lay my eggs on trees like Hazel, Beech and Oak. I also use other trees and shrubs.**

**My caterpillars will eat a wide range of leaves from Roses to Willows. They can alter their colour to match the plant they are eating.**



**The scientific name of the Peppered Moth is Biston betularia.**



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# **Moth Trap Challenge**

**Am I in your moth trap?**  
**Poplar Hawk-moth (May to July)**



**I am a large moth.**  
**My wingspan is between 6cm and 9cm**



Actual sizes



**I lay my eggs on Poplar,  
Aspen and Willow trees  
which grow in damp  
ground and by rivers.  
These trees have catkins  
in the spring.**



**My caterpillar has a horn at the back  
and pink spiracles. It can grow up to half  
the length shown.**



**The scientific name of the Poplar Hawk-moth is  
*Laothoe populi*.**



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# **Moth Trap Challenge**

**Am I in your moth trap?**

**Purple Thorn Moth**  
**(April, May and September)**



**I like to rest with my wings half open.**

**My wingspan is between 3 cm and 4 cm**



Actual sizes



**I lay my eggs on trees like Hazel, Birch and Oak in the spring. I also use other large trees.**



**I usually rest with both my forewings and hindwings half open. I have large eyes to help me see in the dark.**

**The scientific name of the Purple Thorn Moth is *Selenia tetralunaria*.**



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# Moth Trap Challenge

Am I in your moth trap?

Satellite Moth (September to May)



I am a furry moth with marks on each wing that look like 2 small moons travelling round a planet.



My length is between 1.5cm and 2 cm



Actual sizes



Unlike lots of moths I can be found all winter. I sleep most of the time emerging on warm nights to feed on fruit or ivy blossom.

My caterpillars are around in May and June and will eat the leaves of lots of trees. They also eat smaller caterpillars as well. They spin leaves together with silk to make a place to hide.



They come out at night to feed.

The scientific name of the Satellite Moth is *Eupsilia transversa*.



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# **Moth Trap Challenge**

**Am I in your moth trap?**  
**Shoulder Stripe Moth**  
**(April to May)**



**My wide wings have a purple tinge with rich brown and black markings.**

**My wing span is between 3 cm and 4 cm**



Actual sizes



**I lay my eggs on trees like Hazel, Beech and Oak in the spring. I also use other large trees. I need to lay a lot of eggs as a blue tit can take over 100 caterpillars a day to feed her young.**



**The scientific name of the Shoulder Stripe Moth is *Anticlea badiata*.**



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# **Moth Trap Challenge**

**Am I in your moth trap?**  
**Silver-ground Carpet Moth**  
**(May to July)**



**I am quite a small moth. I come from a large family of carpet moths.**

**Others you might find are the Garden Carpet and the Common Marbled Carpet**

**My length is about 1.5cm.**

Actual size



**I lay my eggs on a wide variety of small plants like primroses. I like to lay in damp places.**



**Between July and September they hatch into dull grey green hairless caterpillars.**

**My caterpillars have 3 pairs of jointed legs at the front and 2 pairs of prolegs. They arch their bodies as they move along and are called loopers.**



**They can be found throughout the winter.**

**The scientific name of the Silver-ground Carpet Moth is *Xanthorhoe montanata*.**



# **Moth Trap Challenge**

**Am I in your moth trap?**

**Streamer Moth**  
**(April to May)**



**I rest with my wings flat. Can you see the streamer marks on my wings?**

**My wingspan is around 3cm.**



Actual size

**I lay my eggs on the Dog Rose in the spring. I also use other wild roses.**



**My green caterpillars emerge between May and early July. They eat both the flowers and the leaves of the rose.**

**The scientific name of the Streamer Moth is *Anticlea derivata*.**



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# **Moth Trap Challenge**

## **Am I in your moth trap?**

### **Twin-spotted Quaker Moth**

**(March to May)**



**I am a furry moth with two spots on each wing. I also have a faint oval and kidney shape mark.**

**My length is between 1.5cm and 2 cm**



**Actual sizes**



**I like to sip nectar from Sallow catkins. I lay my eggs on trees like Hazel, Beech and Oak in the spring.**

**You can find my caterpillars in on the trees between May and early July. They like to hide in the cracks in bark in the daytime.**

**They come out at night to feed. They are light brown with a wavy dark brown line on each side.**

**They have 5 pairs of prolegs.**



**The scientific name of the Twin-spotted Quaker Moth is *Orthosia munda*.**



# Moth Trap Challenge

Am I in your moth trap?

White Ermine Moth (May to June)



**I have black dots all over my wings and body. Sometimes I am a buff colour.**

**Male moths have feathered antennae which they use to smell with.**



**My length is about 2cm.**



Actual size

**I lay my eggs on plants like nettles and docks.**

**Over the summer they hatch into dark brown caterpillars with a light stripe.**

**They are covered in tufts of black hairs.**



**When they are large enough they turn into pupae under the leaves to sleep until spring.**

**The scientific name of the White Ermine Moth is *Spilosoma lubricipeda*.**



## Appendix 1

### Mathematics.

#### Key stage 1

Recognise and describe different shapes and patterns.

Use a range of measures to describe length and area.

#### Key stage 2

Identify acute and obtuse angled triangles. Identify isosceles and equilateral triangles. Understand the difference between plan and elevation drawings.

### Science

#### Key stage 1

Use simple features to compare living things and sort and group them.

Use simple measurements and equipment to gather data.

Record and communicate findings

Talk about the changing seasons

Look at the food chain.

#### Key stage 2

Identify that insects need food to complete their life cycle.

Look at the difference between the life cycle of an insect, egg - larva - and adult and that of an animal.

Describe how living entities are divided according to common observable differences.

Look at species and sub species.

Analyse the advantages of different adaptations. ie bright pigmentation against dull pigmentation or 2 pairs of prolegs for caterpillars against 5.

## Appendix 2

While most of the images have come from Brian Hancock, Ken Kitchen and Ann Kitchen, thanks must go to the following photographers who have allowed us to use their images. The copyright remains with them.

- Gary Barlow, Butterfly Conservation:- Silver Ground Carpet.
- John Bebbington, Somerset Moths:- Brimstone larva, Hebrew Character nectaring, Nut-tree Tussock Larva and 2 Peppered Moth larvae.
- Graham Calow, Naturespot:- Common Footman larva, Herald pupa, Poplar Hawkmoth larva
- Barbara Cooper, Naturespot:- Large Yellow Underwing;Hind wing
- Sue Davies, Somerset Moths:- White ermine larva
- Egaten, Naturespot:- The Satellite larva.
- David G Green, Butterfly Conservation:- Purple Thorn on twig
- Lathyrus:- Bufftip group of larvae
- David Nicholls:- Large Yellow Underwing, larvae
- Neil Sherman, Suffolk Moths:- Early Thorn larva, March moth female
- Mark Skevington, Naturespot:- Hebrew Character larva, Twin-spotted Quaker larva

### Appendix 3 Dates of flight O occasional, F fairly common, C common

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Angle Shades					O			F	F	F		
Brimstone					C	C	C					
Brindled Pug			F	C	F							
Buff Ermine					C	C						
Buff-tip					O	O						
Chinese Character					F	F	O					
Cinnabar						F	F					
Clouded Drab			C	C								
Common Footman						O	C	C				
Common Marbled					F	F			F	C		
Common Pug					C	C						
Common Quaker			C	C								
Early Grey			F	C								
Early Thorn				F					F			
Elephant Hawk-moth					F	F	F					
Engrailed				F			F					
Flame Shoulder					F				F	F		
Garden Carpet					F	F			F			
Hebrew Character			C	C	C							
Herald			O	O						O		
Large Yellow Underwing						F	C	C	F			
Light Emerald					F	F			F			
March Moth		F	C	F								
Nut-tree Tussock					F							
Oak Beauty		F	F									
Pale Tussock					F	F						
Peachblossom					O	O						
Peppered					O	F						
Poplar Hawk-moth					F	C	C					
Purple Thorn				C	F				F			
Satellite			F	F						F		
Shoulder stripe				O	O							
Silver-ground Carpet					C	C	C					
Streamer				F	F							
Twin Spotted Quaker			C	C	C							
White Ermine					C	C						

Appendix 4 Thumbnails (not to scale)



Angle shades



Brimstone



Brindled Pug



Buff Ermine



Buff Tipp



Chinese Character



Cinnabar



Common Footman



Clouded Drab



Common Marbled Carpet



Common Pug



Common Quaker



Early Grey



Early Thorn



Elephant Hawk-moth



Engrailed



Flame Shoulder



Garden Carpet



Hebrew Character



Herald



Large Yellow Underwing



Light Emerald



March



Nut-tree Tussock



Oak Beauty



Pale Tussock



Peach Blossom



Peppered



Poplar Hawk-moth



Purple Thorn



Satellite



Shoulder Stripe



Silver Ground Carpet



Streamer



Twin-spotted Quaker



White Ermine