

Box tree caterpillar

(Cydalima perspectalis)

Forestry Commission

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

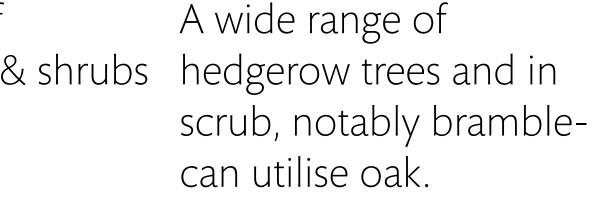
Oak processionary moth (Thaumetopoea processionea) Almost exclusively on oak. Can be found on other broadleaves during very heavy outbreaks only. April - June Caterpillar ! Human health risk ! Irritating/toxic hairs

Up to 45mm. Grey body and dark head- older caterpillars of long white hairs arise from orange warts along the length

Lackey moth (Malacosoma neustria)

A wide range of broadleaf trees & shrubs including oak.

April - June



Over winter - May

Brown-tail moth

Buff-tip moth (Euproctis chrysorrhoea) (Phalera bucephala)

A wide range of broadleaf trees and shrubs including oak.

July - October



Blackthorn and hawthorn occasionally on other broadleaves but not on oak.

April - July

Vapourer moth (Orgyia antiqua)

A wide range of broadleaf trees and shrubs including oak.

May - early September May - July



A wide range of In Europe, box tree broadleaf trees and caterpillars have only been observed eating shrubs but not on oak.

> species of box:* **April - October**

Spongy moth (Lymantria dispar)

A wide range of broadleaved trees and shrubs.

April - June



have a central dark stripe with OPM by their distinct white line either side. Clumps orange and blue of the caterpillar.



Up to 55mm. Distinguishable from longitudinal stripes.



Up to 45mm. Dark brown and hairy with white marks down the side and two characteristic orangeyred warts at the rear.



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.



Up to 45mm. Velvetyblack body with redbrown marks bordered with white. Completely covered with fine brown single brown tufts. hairs; some quite long.



Up to 40mm. Bluish grey body with red spots and a row of four distinctive pale yellow



Up to 25mm. Eight very similar UK species. Caterpillars are hairless, creamy white to grey with black markings.



Up to 40mm. Mature caterpillars have a green body, and striking pattern of thick, black and thin white stripes along the length of the body, with large black dots outlined in white on the dorsal side.



Up to 70mm. The mature caterpillar develops a series of distinctly coloured 'warty spots' along its back: five pairs of blue spots behind the head, and six pairs of red or black-ish spots to the rear.



White silken nests on trunks or branches. Nests darken with age and accumulation of shed skins and hairs; tennis ball sized or much larger.



The caterpillars feed gregariously in a communal web or 'tent' typically formed between twigs. These are conspicuous and may exceed 30cm in length. Defoliation is often severe.



Caterpillars feed gregariously creating a strong silken web or 'tent'. Defoliation is often severe.



Buff-tip moth caterpillar do not produce webbing material. Caterpillars cause noticeable defoliation.



Caterpillars live and feed gregariously in silken webs. A rare species and localised across England as far as N. Yorkshire. Species is of conservation value.



Caterpillars do not produce webbing material. Can cause noticeable defoliation and also damage to buds and flowers but infestations are rarely significant.



Caterpillars produce webbing in spring and early summer that can be extensive draping over entire trees and hedgerows- defoliation can be severe.



defoliation. The pupae webbing spun among the leaves and twigs.

Box caterpillar

*Buxus microphylla, B. microphylla var. insularis, B. sempervirens and B. sinica.



Egg plaques are typically a yellow-brown colour, are in a cocoon of white are 3-4cm long and look like a sponge. They are usually found on crevices of bark, but also on walls, fences or any sheltered, rough surface. Can cause severe defoliation.