





Technical Bulletin for: Pine Processionary Moth

Thaumetopoeae pityocampa (Denis & Schiffermüller) • Lepidoptera, *Thaumetopoeidae* • THAPIT



DISTRIBUTION	Central Asia, North Africa, Southern Europe
HOSTS	Atlas Cedar, Common Larch, Midland Hawthorn, Canary Pine, Lodgepole Pine, Aleppo Pine, Mountain Pine, Black pine, Maritime Pine, Stone Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Radiata Pine, Scots Pine, and Douglas-fir.
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT	Male and females are dimorphic. Females' wingspan is 36-49 mm, males' wingspan is 31-39 mm. Forewings are a dull ash-gray, with darker, transverse bands. The hindwings are white and gray-fringed.
LARVAE	There are five instars, distinguished by different sizes of heat capsules. Fully grown, they reach 40 mm in length. Dull apple-green initially, with the later instars appearing more reddish-brown.
EGGS	Cylindrical, covered with scales, masses ranging in length from 4-5 cm.
LIFE HISTORY	Depending on locations, there can be 1-2 generations per year. Larvae overwinter in "tents" high in the trees. Life cycle is normally annual but may extend over two years depending on altitude. A few hours after emergence and mating, the females oviposit on the nearest pines. They can, however, fly several kilometers, and quickly extend outbreaks over large areas. The eggs are laid in cylindrical masses in a helicoid arrangement around pairs of needles. A large proportion of the egg masses are generally laid on the peripheral shoots of the crown and contain 70-300 eggs, according to the feeding conditions of the caterpillars. Larvae bore an opening in the chorion after 30-45 days construct their nest. Species is known for pupation "processions" wherein a future female leads a colony of larvae to find a suitable site to tunnel underground and pupate.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Y11,Z13-16Ac in a Red Rubber Septum. Lure longevity: 30 days.	
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Hang traps from tree branches 1.7 m above ground. Check with local forestry service for information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Inspect host trees for defoliation and for tent nests in the canopy. Cut nests carefully off of the trees in which they are present and incinerate them for best effect.	

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